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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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USSR REPORT MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

TRANSCAUCASUS MD MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING ON PRE-DRAFT TRAINING

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 3 Oct 86 pp 1, 3

[Unsigned article: "To Bring Up Worthy Defenders of the Socialist Fatherland"]

[Text] An expanded session of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District Military Council was held. Taking part in its work were D. I. Patiashvili, first secretary, Central Committee, Communist Party of Georgia; K. M. Bagirov, first secretary, Central Committee, Communist Party of Azerbaijan; K. S. Demirchyan, first secretary, Central Committee, Communist Party of Armenia, as well as invited members of the government's of the transcaucasian republics and officials from a number of ministries and departments.

The Military Council examined the issue of the state of work and measures to improve it, in light of the resolution by the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers, aimed at further improving the preparation of young people for military service. Lt Gen A. N. Kleymentov, chief of staff and first deputy commander, Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District, presented a report.

K. N. Bagirov, first secretary, Central Committee, Communist Party of Azerbaijan; Col Gen K. A. Kochetov, commander, Transcaucasus Military District; Lt Gen V. L. Gulevich, Military Council member and chief of the Political Directorate, Transcaucasus Military District; N. Sh. Basadze, minister of education, Georgian SSR; Maj Gen A. A. Kasimov, military commissar, Azerbaijan SSR; E. S. Gabrielyan, minister of health, Armenian SSR; Maj Gen Avn G. V. Naneyshvili, chairman, DOSAAF [Voluntary Society for Cooperation with the Armed Forces], Georgian SSR; and G. S. Kotandzhyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR State Committee for Technical and Vocational Education, spoke at the military district Military Council session.

It was noted at the session that the party has viewed and views patriotic and international indoctrination of the Soviet people, and the formation in them of readiness to defend the homeland and at any moment to defend the gains of Great October with weapon in hands, as an integral part and important task of all ideological indoctrination work. Particular attention in this work must be paid to pre-draft and draft-age youth, to their all-round preparation for service in the USSR Armed Forces. Here questions of improving the level of

military knowledge of young people which they received in schools, SPTU [rural technical and vocational schools] and DOSAAF organizations; physical tempering of young people; improving health and medical work and extensive development of military patriotic indoctrination come to the forefront. This task is especially urgent today, when militant circles in the West, led by American imperialism, are, with all of their forces, inflaming the international situation and militaristic psychoses and pushing the world to the brink of nuclear war.

Fulfilling the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers, the military soviet, commanders, political organs, staffs and party and komsomol organizations in the Transcaucasus Military District, along with party and soviet organs, ministries and departments in the Transcaucasian republics, are carrying out active work to form in young people a high feeling of personal responsibility for the destiny of our homeland and constant readiness to defend its interests with weapon in hand. This work is having its practical results. The overwhelming majority of draftees from the Transcaucasian republics are honorably and conscientiously fulfilling their military and international duty, persistently mastering military affairs and acquiring qualities of reliable defenders of the socialist fatherland. Recently there has been an increase in the desire of young people, especially from the indigenous nationalities of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, to enter higher military educational institutions.

Assessing the achieved level of training of young people for army service and the state of military patriotic indoctrination of young people by the high standard of the requirements of the 27th Party Congress, the Military Council acknowledged that this work requires further improvement and restructuring. What are important are the effectiveness and quality, and not the quantity, of the measures carried out.

An important element in work with pre-draft age youth is initial military training of school students. Its quality largely depends on the material and technical base. Much has been done in this area in the republics. At the same time, many schools, especially rural schools, lack military study rooms, small bore ranges and sports facilities, and conditions have not been created for lessons in technical sports and sports with military application. Among the main causes of the poor mastery of initial training programs are the predominance of lectures in lessons, the substitution of talks or film presentations for practical actions and the inefficient use of training time. Poor knowledge of Russian language by some students in rural schools also lowered the quality of learning the programs. The leaders of the some of these schools are reconciled to the fact that classes in initial training are held primarily in the language of the indigenous nationality, and they do not make it a practice to assign young people to experienced instructors.

As was noted at the Military Council session, improving the level of initial military training could be substantially facilitated by an annual examination by ispolkoms of soviets of peoples deputies, in the period between the completion of the current and beginning of the new school year, of the results of initial military training with young people. Instructors, as well as all interested organs should be involved. It is necessary to intensify the

monitoring of the state of initial military training of young people and eliminate instances in which performance is checked by unqualified persons. Officials involved with draft-age youth must not work in isolation.

Work in the DOSAAF system and in technical and vocational schools requires improvement. Modern means and methods of training should be more widely introduced into the training and indoctrination process, and the skill of instructors and masters of technical industrial training should be improved.

The saturation of troop units with modern military equipment, and the need to assimilate and process a very large volume of information and work under conditions of a rapidly changing situation make high demands on the physical development and state of health of the soldiers. Therefore, it is important to seek mass involvement of young people of pre-draft and draft age in regular physical culture and sports activities, and to facilitate their development of strength, endurance, dexterity and courage.

It is necessary to see that every educational institution has a sports complex, equipped with all necessary apparatuses and equipment. It is important that by the day he is called up into the army every youth has mastered the all-union physical culture complex, "Prepared for Labor and Defense of the USSR."

Experience shows that in the overall system of indoctrination of young people insufficient weight is still being given to measures of a military patriotic nature, and there are instances of young people not being fully involved in them, and of formalism in the work of certain schools, SPTU, technical schools and military commissariat offices. Here and there this is cyclical in nature, held only on the eve of holidays and anniversaries, at which time stress is placed on massiveness and no attention is given to the specific young person.

The Military Council recommended that commanders, political organs, staffs, leaders of schools, SPTU and technical schools, and military commissariat offices establish close mutual contact, widely practice assisting vocational and technical schools and regular schools in creating the material and technical training base for military patriotic indoctrination, and in conducting lessons in courage by military servicemen and having them participate in propaganda lectures in labor and educational collectives. It is necessary to see to it that the ideological thrust and informativeness of military patriotic work are strengthened; to implement it comprehensively; and to achieve unity in political, moral and internationalist indoctrination.

Young people should be invited more frequently to annual unit holidays, be shown military equipment and weapons, and be acquainted with their military capabilities. Methodological and practical assistance should be rendered to educational institutions in organizing and conducting the Zarnitsa and Orlenok military-sports games; in creating rooms and corners of combat glory; and in conducting firing and other types of competition in sports with military applications.

The Military Council session emphasized that it is no less important to involve pre-draft age youth in labor and public work and to organize closer

ties of military commissariat offices with the parents of young people and with the enterprises and collectives where young people work. The mass information media, local radio and press, as well as clubs and libraries must make a significant contribution to military and patriotic indoctrination. Veterans of war and labor and reserve soldiers who have fulfilled their international military duty as members of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, must not stand aside from work with young people.

Military tutelage is an active means of improving the effectiveness of the training of young people for service in the armed forces. Carrying out this work realizes in practice Lenin's principle of the indissoluble unity of army and people. It is necessary to improve this work. It will help pre-draft and draft-age young people understand still more thoroughly their participation in further improving the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces and in strengthening the defense capability of the country.

9069

CSO: 1801/17

4 December 1986

MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

ACHIEVEMENTS, FAILINGS IN 'RESTRUCTURING' AMONG AVIATION UNITS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by Lt Col N. Dementsov, Military Pilot First Class, deputy commander, "N" Air Regiment: "Take More on One's Self"]

[Text] Only one glance was necessary in order to understand that Lt Col V. Lesnyak did not merely come to the headquarters to say hello, but came on an urgent matter.

"What is going on here? He asked indignantly while still at the threshold. "The day has long been over and the officers have accomplished their assigned tasks. They should now rest, and they are still toiling in the regiment. And such toiling has already become a habit."

Lt Col Lesnyak fell silent for an instant, as if collecting his thoughts, and then, slashing the air with his arm, concluded forcibly:

"On the whole I sent my subordinates home. On their own recognizance."

"This is vintage Lesnyak," one of the staff officers nodded his head.

It was not difficult to understand what he had in mind. Squadron commander Lt Col Lesnyak is well known in the regiment, and not only through his industriousness, but also his character: straightforward, frank, at times sharp. And, I would say, energetic and indefatigable.

"Viktor Ivanovich," the regiment commander asked him at one time. "You have an excellent squadron, it is working at a high level, what do you think is still not adequate?"

"A lot," Lesnyak answered immediately. "For example, flying hours for lieutenants. They fly little, although at meetings and conferences we talk incessantly about the need to integrate the young pilots as quickly as possible, and in practice we rely on the "masters." I believe it is necessary to reexamine flight planning."

"See who mainly flies with lieutenants?" stated Lt Col Lesnyak another time. "Mainly it is headquarters officers. I do not dispute that they are

experienced pilots, and that they have something to teach. But the young people will accomplish their combat missions as members of flights, and it is most important that their commanders work more with the new ones."

The above recalled example concerning keeping people at work is also instructive. Why hide it, at one time we had a lack of coordination with the schedule of the day and actually kept officers at the unit. We thought that this would help achieve higher results. As it turned out we were mistaken. And Lesnyak was first to note this. And, as always, he was not silent, did not close his eyes, expressed his opinion openly, which again emphasized that he is not indifferent but has a keen sense of responsibility for everything which takes place, not only in his subunit, but also in the unit as a whole.

By the way, it is for sure that this is not only a matter of responsibility. Something else is also apparent: a manifestation of the mature independence of an officer-communist in his thinking and actions, his ability to see problems and sore points in the regimental organism, his decisive rejection of old techniques and methods of work and just as decisive turn toward the side of vital, creative and specific work.

I will say frankly that this turn is ever more noticeable in the style of work of many officers in our regiment. I am sure that flight commanders, captains V. Kurilenko and I. Kuleshin would hardly have achieved such high indices had they worked in the past rhythm. But these people were able to restructure their work, direct themselves to seek unused resources and to take a new and more energetic approach toward their work, and this is the result. The commanders became pilots first class and their flights are excellent. The same can be said about captains Z. Meshkunas and I. Danilov, lieutenants N. Gorlach and S. Pronin and other officers.

Take, for example, Lt Col A. Ilyukhin, regiment chief of staff. What is there to say, his area of work is difficult, crucial and full of concerns. There was a time when many criticisms were uttered about the staff. It was criticized for formalism, paper-shuffling, unconsidered planning and inattention to the organization of the daily duty detail. Today such complaints are a rarity. And this is largely due to the restructuring in the style of work of the staff, and most of all to the restructuring of the thinking and actions of the chief of staff himself. Lt Col Ilyukhin relies on an energetic, efficient and creative approach to business, and struggles resolutely against stagnation.

This trait is characteristic. We were preparing for routine training on protecting and defending an airfield. It was matter that, in general, we were familiar with and accustomed to. But this familiarity had gone so far that blank cartridges were not even handed out to the personnel.

"This is enough deceiving ourselves and enervating people," stated the chief of staff. "We need not imitation, but deeds."

The lesson even now is taken as a model, as we prepare for what is to come.

I believe that this example graphically indicates the character of the officer and shows his style of work. And it is no accident that, when the approach to work taken by lieutenant colonels Lesnyak and Ilyukhin is compared, one notes much in common. And most important is that in the end one sees a high quality result.

Unfortunately, not all of us have yet gotten away from inertia and not in every area can one find those who are striving to work in the new way, as the times command. For example, a recent tactical flying exercise is disturbing. It was held in the squadron commanded by Lt Col A. Tychin. The results could have been much better and more substantial. But, on the eve of the exercise, talking with the men I heard confident assertions about high spirits, and about how "everything would be at the level." Alas, the "level" did not turn out to be the one anticipated.

There were many reasons for the failure. I will not mention all. I will touch upon only one, in my view very significant reason. Inertness has still not been rooted out of the working style of certain officers. They are active mainly in their words, and forget the main thing, that loud appeals must be followed by very intense hard work.

Returning to the squadron commanded by Lt Col Tychin. Mature and experienced people were selected here, people who merely had to maintain their leadership in military training. But, others are moving ahead, in particular Lt Col Lesnyak's squadron. And at first glance everything here is normal. The aviators think correctly, discuss in a mature way, criticize shortcomings and make demands upon their coworkers. But all of this is only at first glance. If one looks into the situation attentively, one is struck by the fact that in Lt Col Tychin's squadron there is no fervor or intensity, and a lack of an innovative approach to business. Majors A. Charochkin and V. Anokhin appear to be accomplishing their tasks by inertia. Major O. Lukyanov, squadron deputy commander for political affairs, also does not set an example of restructuring in the style of his work. In short, I would not err if I said that what is evident here is not restructuring, but the old notorious "extension." And this extension is many-sided and is manifested in different ways. At times it is not even immediately apparent.

The times require that people be noticed who think broadly and are involved, truly active, bold in making non-standard decisions and resourceful in achieving the assigned objective. But here our attention and vigilance are often insufficient. Let us return here to Lt Col Lesnyak. I remember that I had a discussion about him with an officer, a member of the regiment party committee. I mentioned the squadron commander as an example of a searching and creative officer.

"And what do you call creativity?" The other shrugged his shoulders. "In his notebook, and in the fact that he is always dissatisfied with something?"

It is, of course, not a matter of his notebook. There is nothing wrong with the officer's memory. Lesnyak's notes are needed for him to analyze what has been achieved and objectively sum up the day, week and month. By making annotations Lt Col Lesnyak thereby disciplines himself and attunes himself in

advance to unconditional fulfillment of the assigned missions. And I do not remember a case when the officer did not complete an assignment on time. Nor do I recall any case of grumbling from the squadron commander. I see something else: the officer's concern for the state of affairs in the unit.

And how important it is to note such an attitude toward the work, to support it, and to direct the other officers toward that end. How important it is, by the way, also to combat the stagnation, inertia and stereotyped behavior which can still be seen in the regiment. For example, not much thinking is required in order to see what prevents majors A. Oskolkov and N. Belenkov, and captains A. Ivanets and V. Lelovikov from achieving high indices in their service. Lulled by their past results, they do not even think about the fact that they are "rolling" along a well-worn track, although they talk about creative seeking and acceleration. And about what acceleration can Capt Lelovikov be talking, if his subunit does not shine in its indices?

During the winter training period the squadron commanded by Lt Col Tychin did not fulfill its commitment. It goes without saying that this also reflected on the results of the entire regiment. A strict assessment was given by the unit command of the style of work of the squadron commander and his deputies. The party committee, however, conducted itself as though nothing had happened. A similar approach can also be seen in solving many other questions. And after all, who more than the party committee is obligated to set the tone in restructuring?

I speak about this because energetic efforts at all levels are needed in the cause of increasing the activeness of the human factor, psychological restructuring of people, and in consolidating and affirming the positive changes in the life of the unit. High responsibility and principles from each of us for our assigned jobs are required, as are strict demands upon ourselves and our co-workers and a desire to take on more today than yesterday. I would say that we need overloading not only in the air, but also on the ground. Only under such an approach, I am sure, can we count on a high end result in the concluding training year.

9069

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4 December 1986

WARSAW PACT

SOVIET-POLISH REGIMENTS IN JOINT EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 86 p 1

[Article by Major G. Averyanov: "In Military Cooperation"]

[Text] The march took place at night. The columns of subunits of our motorized rifle regiment and the mechanized regiment of Polish forces moved under a driving rain along washed out country tracks and forest roads. The way was difficult. However, we arrived at the assigned area right on time.

When dawn came a hilly plain which stretched to the very horizon could be seen from the edge of the forest. And here Soviet and Polish troops saw far ahead the outline of that very "populated area," which, according to intelligence information, the "enemy" had carefully prepared for defense. It was to be seized.

This was probably the most crucial stage of the combined exercises by troops of the two fraternal armies. The battle began by aviation making a bombing strike against "enemy" positions. Puffs of smoke shot up in the vicinity of the "populated area." Then combat helicopters swiftly attacked the command and control posts and fortified firing positions of the defenders, previously revealed by reconnaissance, and the artillery struck. Literally in the wake of the explosions of rounds subunits of the Soviet Army and Polish Forces, commanded by Maj S. Krivobokov and Capt (Kh. Ruzhanetskiy), went into the attack. Fighting broke out on the approaches to the "city." The "enemy" conducted strong fire from holes in walls, windows, basements and garrets. However, despite the fierce resistance of the defenders, the Soviet and Polish troops stubbornly advanced. Communists Sr Lt A. Fedorov, Lt Yu. Podobed, PORP [Polish United Workers' Party] members lieutenants (K. Kvyatkovskiy) and (Ye. Bankovskiy), and other Soviet and Polish officers carried them to decisive actions through their personal examples. They precisely controlled the fire of their subordinates and the combat formations, and always maintained close coordination among the subunits of the two armies.

Especially efficient was the coordination on the juncture of the two battalions, where companies commanded by Sr Lt A. Fedorov and Lt (Ye. Bankovskiy) were attacking. If the Polish troops were in difficulty Soviet troops came to their aid, and vice versa. The subunits continuously supported one another by fire and maneuver. Here is where the experience of

the combined exercises and camp assemblies came in handy, at which the brothers in arms jointly acquired the secrets of military skill throughout the training year.

The jointly developed special command tables and pre-arranged signals also turned out to be effective. For example, when the subordinates of Maj Krivobokov tore into one of the streets of the "city," the defenders met them with strong fire from the basement of a semi-destroyed building. It was virtually impossible to suppress the well fortified firing points by small arms fire. Then the motorized riflemen transmitted the pre-arranged signal to the nearby artillery subunit commanded by Lt (Ya. Latas). The Polish artillerymen needed only a few minutes in order to wheel their guns to direct fire and by their accurate fire sweep away the obstacle standing in the path of the Soviet troops. At this same time a heavy exchange of fire was also going on in the next "street." There as well our troops supported their Polish friends, although they did not see each other visually. Mortarmen commanded by Lt (Ya. Shidlovskiy) fired through the roofs of buildings, receiving target designation from a Soviet officer by radio.

Yes, during the exercise phrases in different languages could be heard through the airwaves, but the soldiers of the fraternal armies communicated with each other without difficulty. They handed out not only special tables of common commands. Frequently they also got by without them. And this is also understandable: Friends will always understand one another.

The Soviet and Polish troops know about how our brotherhood in arms was born in joint struggle against hated fascism. They also know that, through their intense military labor, they are multiplying glorious combat traditions.

9069

CSO: 1801/14

4 December 1986

ARMED FORCES

COVERAGE FOLLOWING KILLING OF ATTACHE IN PAKISTAN

Biographical Article

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 86 p 3

[Article by Colonel V. Filatov, KRSNAYA ZVEZDA special correspondent:
"Perished at His Post"]

[Text] He was born in the village of Mitkovshchin, Orshanskiy Rayon, Vitebsk Oblast in 1943. Could he have really have been born at that terrible time? The fascists were in Orsha from 16 Jul 41. Several concentration camps were operating right in the city and rayon. Day and night indiscriminate roundups, arrests and shootings went on. By the end of the occupation approximately 60,000 Soviet citizens had perished in Orsha alone, excluding its outlying villages, and before the war there were only 54,000 people in that city. Death and ruin -- and a women gave birth to a son. Why bear a child at such a terrible time? Why not bear a child at such a time?

And he was born, Fedor Ivanovich, with a not so happy last name -- Gorenkov. Perhaps it was from the word "gore" [grief]. Perhaps, it was from the word "svetlaya gorenka" [bright room]. If one judged from the external appearance of Fedor Ivanovich, his last name was from the latter, from bright room, and if said affectionately -- bright little room. In the column about social origin Fedor Ivanovich wrote -- from workers.

The young man came from workers, and he himself became a worker, having completed Secondary School No 1 imeni M. I. Kalinin, in Orsha. The factory which, one might say, makes small but ancient Orsha of all-union importance is the Krasnyy Borets machine tool manufacturing factory. Fedor Gorenkov also went there and soon became a rated metal planer. Not far from the factory structures is the building of an affiliate of the Minsk Polytechnical Institute. While he worked at the factory Gorenkov also studied there in its evening department. The komsomol then choose him to be deputy secretary of the komsomol committee in the shop komsomol organization. His life revolved around Orsha. Here was his home, his school, his factory. Everything was his own, everything was nearby, two steps away. His life evolved normally, like that of each of his contemporaries. It was peacetime, but was it an ordinary time? Perhaps...

In 1962 he entered the army. He served out his mandatory term irreproachably. For two years he had excellent ratings in military and political training. And both years the komsomol members choose him to be their leader. In the army everyone has a weapon, individual or collective. One and the same man, when he is without his weapon and when with it can be a totally different person. People say about an abandoned homeland that they can recall forgotten smells. They say that they can remember old things about the past. Something also dictates to us one day our true calling. Is it the smells? Old things? For Fedor Gorenkov's generation, born during the war, what is solid? Perhaps service in the army? Perhaps, the weapon itself which the homeland assigns for this period?

After the army Fedor Gorenkov completed the foreign language institute by correspondence, and subsequently also obtains higher military education. He becomes a military diplomat. Fedor Ivanovich Gorenkov was in military diplomatic work for many years. He also worked in the U. S. and knew very well with whom he was dealing. According to his leaders, it was namely in military diplomatic work that he most vividly displayed his ability. In 1965 he was admitted into the ranks of the CPSU. And in all of his recommendations and references one can read "principled communist, has a feeling of high responsibility for his duty, sensitive and responsive comrade, capable, an able organizer, cheerful, energetic, a good sportsman." He was that sort of person.

Almost an entire cartridge clip was fired into him by his enemy and killer. The first two bullets to the head were fatal.

The comrades of Fedor Ivanovich Gorenkov stated:

"It was an ordinary working day in the Soviet Embassy. His co-workers were carrying out their daily duties, including those associated with departing for the city. As the vehicle departed in which acting military attache Fedor Ivanovich Gorenkov and his family were seated, onto the main street of the capital of Pakistan, where the main governmental institutions, including the palace of the president are located, a man suddenly jumped into the thoroughfare from bushes along the road. In order to avoid striking him Fedor Ivanovich was forced to come to an abrupt stop. The unknown man rapidly approached the automobile and began to say something unintelligible in English. Distracting Gorenkov's attention, he threw into the car some piece of paper through the open window. After this the terrorist pulled out his pistol and shot point blank. The driverless vehicle in which the family members of Fedor Ivanovich remained, rolled downhill. However, the killer, trying to eliminate witnesses to the crime, continued to fire in the wake of the departing vehicle. Then he hid.

It was an ordinary working day in the Soviet Embassy... When was this? 16 September. What day was it? Tuesday. An ordinary working Tuesday... like for each of us.

A killer and a terrorist is always repulsive. Of course, one can become resentful and indignant. But it is better to know and understand. He is a true enemy. Like in any other battle.

I was twice in Afghanistan. I saw with my own eyes as our troops fought there shoulder to shoulder in battles against the mercenaries. Blood is spilled. People perish. Ruins and smoldering ashes multiply. This is the background against which the working days of Col F. Gorenkov took place, and also take place today for Soviet diplomats in Pakistan and Afghanistan. They say about such working days that they are at a front which does not grow quiet. Yes, it happens, our people die far from the homeland. They give their lives to ward off the fires of war from the boundaries of the fatherland; to put them out there where they began to burn.

Fedor Ivanovich left two children, a daughter Katya and a son Pavel. Katya is a student in fourth grade and it was she who was then in the vehicle. Fedor Ivanovich, they say, paid a great deal of attention to the upbringing of his children. His son Pavel completed the Suvorov school, followed in the footsteps of his father, and at present is a student in a military school. His wife, Antonin Nikolayevna, was also in the vehicle in which Fedor Ivanovich was killed. By profession she is a geodesic engineer, an aerial photographer and a cartographer.

Of course, there is grief, and the heart bleeds. It is sad to lose one's best comrades. "Undeclared war" is a broad concept. But the pain of loss is not eased by the fact that it is called such. Against us Soviets the enemy was always pitiless, always fought only to destroy, only to annihilate. That is the nature of imperialism.

Tomorrow, unfortunately, that front which does not grow quiet is not eliminated...

Memorial Service

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 86 p 3

[Unsigned Article "The Last Journey"]

[Text] Yesterday Soviet troops and workers in the capital said goodbye to military diplomat, Col Gorenkov, F. I., who was villainously murdered on 16 Sep 86 in Islamabad.

The hall of the Officer's Home of the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District was bedecked for mourning. Here on the pedestal, framed in living flowers, is the coffin with the body of F. I. Gorenkov.

Combat banners are at half mast and twined round with funeral ribbon. Wreaths surround the pedestal.

Funeral melodies can be heard. In mournful silence his military friends, Soviet Army and Navy personnel and workers and employees of Moscow Enterprises say goodbye to Col F. I. Gorenkov.

In the honor guard are generals, admirals and officers from the USSR Ministry of Defense, the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy and the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

A funeral service dedicated to the memory of Col F. I. Gorenkov was held at the grave.

9069

CSO: 1801/17

ARMED FORCES

REVIEW: MEMOIRS OF MAR ARTY K. KAZAKOV

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Sep 86 p 2

[Review by Mar Arty G. Peredelskiy of book "Ognevoy Val Nastupleniya" [Rolling Barrage of the Offensive] by K. Kazakov, Voenizdat, 1986, 320 pages]

[Text] The newly published book of memoirs by Mar Arty K. Kazakov, "Ognevoy Val Nastupleniya" encompasses in time all of World War II. It is interesting that Konstantin Petrovich Kazakov greeted the beginning of this war, September 1939, in central China, as a military advisor on the Chinese-Japanese Front. And he concluded World War II again in China, but Northeastern China, already in the capacity of artillery commander, first Red Banner Army, which in August 1945 broke through deep into the rear of the Japanese Kwantung Army, during the Manchurian Offensive Operation by Soviet forces through Taiga and mountain ranges.

Konstantin Petrovich Kazakov began the Great Patriotic War on the Southwestern Front in June 1941, as commander of an RGK [Reserve of the High Command] artillery regiment. He experienced all the trials of that terrible summer. The regiment which he commanded struck German tanks at the Goryn River and the Zhitomir Highway, was encircled, broke out and again entered combat. Then Col Kazakov was named chief of the operations department, front artillery headquarters, and in spring 1942 was assigned to the same position at the Red Army Artillery Headquarters. Here, under the supervision of Col Gen (later Mar Arty) Nikolay Nikolayevich Voronov, Kazakov received thorough staff schooling. In the operations group of the artillery commander, who was at the same time the Stavka representative, he took part in the defensive, and then also the offensive engagements of the Battle of Stalingrad, and in the other major combat events of 1942-1944.

The author's memoirs are impressive as he speaks about the July days of 1942, which immediately preceded the creation of the Stalingrad Front, and about how in one of the most difficult moments of the war the purposeful activity of the Supreme High Command and large unit commanders and political officers, with the energetic work of party organizations and the working class of Stalingrad, helped in a very few days to create a strong defense in the Stalingrad area. A direct participant in these events, the author reports many specific and interesting facts.

His varied military experience gives the author the practical opportunity and moral right to trace deeds and facts as they developed, their positive or negative tendencies, and to make broad generalizations on different aspects of artillery combat operations. As a rule, he is able to discuss simply and understandably the most complex and specialized things, and at the same time without oversimplification. For example, he narrates thoroughly the battle by heavy and super-heavy artillery against permanent engineer fortifications, or more simply, fortresses. These include the artillery assault of Narva, which Gen Kazakov led, the assault of the (Graudents) [today Grudsiadz] Fortress, as well as the Japanese fortified areas of (Mishan) and Mudanjiang.

The same can be said about anti-tank defense. This most important and always timely topic permeates all of his memoirs. The reader witnesses with what difficulty our anti-tank defense system emerged, which already by the end of the 1942 became a reliable shield for the infantry.

Or, take firing against such an unsuitable target for artillery as a long and narrow bridge. The author, who fired against bridges both at the beginning and the end of the war, explains why firing against the stone "piers" of a bridge with armor piercing rounds had no practical affect and why, to the contrary, an ordinary high explosive-fragmentation round, set for fragmentation, helped rapidly knock this bridge out of action.

K. Kazakov lights the reader's way into the specifics of artillery, the methods and types of artillery fire, artillery reconnaissance and observation and other difficulties, which seem unintelligible only until explained by a knowledgeable and experienced artilleryman. In short, based on examples from his own practice, Mar Arty Kazakov reveals what is at times concealed behind technical terms, and this involving of the reader in the science of artillery, I believe, is of benefit.

Of course, it is also very difficult even for a professional to explain simply and understandably things which are complex and specialized. But, in his memoirs Kazakov succeeds in doing this. Their language is plain and they can be easily read. It is a true "artillery" book. From its pages the "God of war" arises in all of his might.

9069

CSO: 1801/14

ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Assignments Not Conforming to Specialty

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 86 p 2

[Follow-up on article, under the rubric "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Articles":
"They Were Disappointed"]

[Text] The above was the heading of a letter to the editor from Lieutenants Yu. Isayev, Yu. Karasev and V. Kiselev, published on 14 June. The authors, who were drafted into the Armed Forces from the reserve, were disappointed in the service because it was a long time before they were given assignments in their specialty.

Lieutenant General of Aviation N. Kryukov, commander of Kiev Military District Air Forces, has reported to the editorial office that officials in the military unit did not demonstrate concern or consideration with respect to providing the young officers with accommodations and authorized pay and allowances or getting them started on the job. Lieutenant Colonel V. Gota has been sternly admonished for this, and Captain Yu. Sidorenko has been disciplined. The lieutenants have been assigned to jobs consistent with their education. The district air force command has sent instructions to all the air units to prevent such shortcomings henceforth.

Poorly Trained Weather Specialists

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 86 p 2

[Follow-up on article, under the rubric "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA articles":
"Where Are the Half-Trained Ones Coming From?"]

[Text] The above was the heading of a letter from Captain Yu. Kuchayev, published on 8 July. It discussed the poor training of certain graduates of training sub-units for junior weather specialists, who arrive in the unit with good grades for the training despite this.

Major General of Aviation R. Zenchenko reported to the editorial office that the inflation of Private M. Dazhadayev's grades has been confirmed. The guilty parties, Major I. Vasilkov and Captain N. Sychev, have been disciplined.

Malfeasance Covered Up

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Aug 86 p 2

[Follow-up on letter, by Col V. Bogdanovskiy, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Transcarpathian Military District, under the rubric "On the Tracks of a Letter": "Forgery"]

[Text] Captain V. Timofeyev wrote a letter to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA about some strange (to put it mildly) things which have occurred in the regiment in which he serves. Judge for yourselves. An accident occurred in the company commanded by Captain A. Maksimuk, which resulted in a considerable loss to the state. Captain Maksimuk got off with a slight scare, as they say, however. What is more, he was promoted at the end of the year, and the company was named an excellent one.

Such a thing might indeed appear strange. But let us not draw hasty conclusions....

I shall begin things in sequence. First of all, there is the matter of the company's becoming an excellent one. The company commanded by Captain V. Galtsov was named more frequently than the others throughout the year among the outstanding competition participants. This was in summation reports signed by the regimental commander. Maksimuk's name appeared there only once. How, then, did he end up among the leaders? With a last-minute spurt?

"How could there have been a spurt," Senior Lieutenants F. Sergeyev and V. Asotskiy said, "when the company was not even tested."

"The subunit was given its final marks on the basis of its day-to-day progress," explained Major V. Kazak, deputy chief of staff.

"Here is the report signed by the inspector...."

Excellent evaluations did in fact predominate in the report. Furthermore, it turned out to be the only document from which one could get some kind of picture of commitment fulfillment in the regiment. The inspector referred to by Major Kazak was greatly surprised to learn what the report contained, however.

"I could not have given the 3rd tank company an excellent evaluation," Colonel P. Chmel assured me.

I was forced to show him the ill-fated document.

"Now I see," the officer said, frowning, after looking at the report. "Notice that most of the evaluations for the 3rd tank company have been erased and altered. Including the final evaluation. Someone wanted to put this subunit among the leaders at any price...."

It was not too difficult to clarify the situation, despite the fact that the regimental commander and some of the staff officers involved in keeping records on the competition had been transferred. Many people in the regiment had heard about Captain Maksimuk's unseemly behavior and about how he could get away with anything, as they say.

"It is easy to see through this," Major V. Voropayev said. "It was done to please Major General Kasyanov, Captain Maksimyuk's father-in-law and benefactor. He wanted so much for his son-in-law to have a peaceful, trouble-free life...."

The author, then, had a good reason for writing the letter. And when one looks at certain recent events which have done nothing for the regiment's reputation, one sees that Maksimyuk's name is in fact linked to many of them. He had barely assumed command of the company (and many officers with far more experience and better reputations aspired to the position), for example, when there was a fire in the subunit. It occurred because Maksimyuk had not seen to it that fire-prevention measures were observed and that regulation order was maintained in the storage of weapons and ammunition.

The incident shocked everyone in the battalion. People took it hard. Maksimyuk alone was unconcerned about the accident. He acted as though nothing had happened and through Major General Kasyanov, obtained a leave with family circumstances as justification. No one held him accountable for the deficiencies even when he returned from his leave. What is more, no attempt was made even to conduct an administrative investigation into the causes of the accident, which is required in such cases.

"Lieutenant Colonel Zhumidov, Major General Kasyanov's subordinate, called," Major Yu. Borodin said by way of justification, "and ordered that a commission be set up and the material damaged by the fire be reclassified as category '5,' and that much of it be written off entirely."

The document writing off the material was made up, but it said nothing about the fire. It states that the material became unusable as a result of wear and tear from use. It contains the signature of Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Yevseyev. It was learned that he never saw the document, however. Nor was a commission set up.

"I was given the report, authenticated with a stamp, by Lieutenant Colonel Boykov, former regimental commander," the chief of the supply service said. "I do not know whether an administrative investigation into the fire was conducted or a commission was set up for writing off the material."

Many people did know, however. No commission was appointed, and an investigation was not conducted. The talk about the 3rd tank company was therefore not rumors but the opinion of the public, which reacted acutely to the fluctuations in the moral climate in the subunit. And that climate, as we know, is determined by the party-mindedness of those in charge. In order to avoid trouble, the regimental command should have changed course. That is, it should have effectively made changes in its work style. Among other things, it was essential to assess from a standpoint of principle the events which were occurring.

The regimental command element and the party committee took a different position, however. And things went from bad to worse.... The hush-up of shortcomings led to deception, and the deception--to an unhealthy moral climate.

With influential benefactors backing him up, Maksimyuk had previously, while still a senior lieutenant, been remiss in the performance of his service duties.

A considerable quantity of ammunition for the tank weapons once became unusable through his fault, for example. This became known at many levels. The decision was made to withhold from company commander Maksimyuk's [pay] an amount equaling his monthly pay rate to reimburse the state for the loss.

A strange metamorphosis took place, however. Literally 2 days after the first decision was adopted, Colonel Ye. Antropov made another decision, which stated that there had been no irresponsibility on Maksimyuk's part. The tank rounds, it was said, had been ruined as a result of frequent removal from the tanks to the carrying crates and back. Literally everyone knew that at Maksimyuk's instructions the tank rounds had simply been left out in the open and been ruined as a result of this.

People were angry at the connivance and the concealment of shortcomings. It cannot be said that the regimental leadership and the party committee members did not see this. They did. Nonetheless, they willingly responded to every request from the patron, cleverly finding ways and even engaging in out-and-out deception. What did they hope to gain by betraying their honor and their conscience? Was it not that they too would receive the same kind of service should the need arise?

One is amazed at the persistence with which Maksimyuk's protectors worked. After getting him his next promotion in rank, they soon conferred the undeserved title of excellent company upon the company he commanded and then set about getting the officer advanced in the service. They were not even put off by the hitch which developed with respect to the preparation of Maksimyuk's party reference. When the battalion party organization refused to give him a good party reference, the rules were circumvented and it was made up by the party committee secretary.

"It is difficult to imagine," Captain Timofeyev says in his letter, "what kind of moral damage this will do. Quite a bit of time has passed since this happened, and people have still not gotten over it. From time to time one hears statements like this: Why try? No matter what, someone with benefactors is going to win the competition and be advanced in the service."

I heard opinions like this in the regiment even from other officers. This shows that the hush-up of shortcomings, the deception and lack of principle on the part of those in charge has caused serious moral damage.

Payment Delays, Planning Problems in Construction

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Aug 86 p 2

[Follow-up on article, under the rubric "Following a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Article":
"A Vacuum in the Safe"]

[Text] In commentary published under the above heading on 27 April, Lieutenant Colonel A. Drovosekov, feuilletonist, told about losses suffered by subcontracting organizations in military construction because of late payment for their work by main contractors and clients, and because of mistakes and lack of coordination in the planning.

Major General K. Pogorelov, chief of the superior military construction organization, has reported that the financial situation in the UNR [work supervisor's section] for mechanization named in the commentary has improved as a result of the steps taken. The money it was owed by the main contractor, the military construction organization headed by Colonel Ye. Korkudanov, was transferred to it in a centralized manner in June. In addition, the machine operators were advanced a considerable sum for uncompleted work, and centralized reductions were made in payments under the financial plan.

The UNR for mechanization is no longer in arrears in its payment of wages to the blue- and white-collar workers and is not behind in its payments on bank loans.

In addition to the preliminary reply previously received, Colonel V. Prokofyev, chief of the KEU [Billeting Directorate] for the Moscow Military District, has reported that the loans for the engineering systems and the main sewer line have basically been repaid. The military construction organization which performed this work has basically been paid. The remaining, insignificant portion of what was owed will be paid after the improved planning documents have been approved.

Future Warrant Officers Denied Practical Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Aug 86 p 2

[Letter to editor from Cadets M. Gladilin and Yu. Shaveko, Red Banner Northern Fleet, under the rubric "Letters to Editor": "Practical Training... in Idle"]

[Text] Respected editor! This letter is from final-term cadets at a Navy school for technicians. We are training to become warrant officers. Our training program allocates time for developing practical skills with trainers. We were sent to one of the Northern Fleet units for this purpose.

When we arrived it turned out that the unit's training base was not prepared for our classes. Instead of training, we have been assigned to details day after day. Captain 2nd Rank N. Zolotarev, unit staff representative, told us: "Your practical training consists in making improvements in the unit." One cannot help wondering, however, whether it was worth moving us hundreds of kilometers just for this. Our "tour" has cost the state a pretty penny, after all.

After we graduate we will arrive on the combat ships as warrant officers, but instead of going to work immediately we will have to spend a considerable amount of time mastering the skills required to work with the equipment. Would it not be better to acquire them ahead of time?!

Incompatibility of Video Components Prevents Use

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Aug 86 p 2

[Letter from Gds WO N. Bolsunovskiy, Red Banner Kiev Military District, under the rubric "Letters to the Editor": "The 'Video' Does Not See"]

[Text] Respected editor! Our unit has received an Elektronika VM-12 video recorder with an Elektronika TK-06 television camera for use in the training.

We are unable to record the takeoffs and landings, however, because the "video" does not see. The television camera is incompatible with it.

How did this happen? Was the order for the video recorder not written up correctly? This could not be ascertained. In this situation, we wrote to the USSR Ministry of Electronics Industry to help us find a way out. I. Khandogin, main administration chief, replied that the Elektronika-821 video camera is compatible with this type of video recorder--only after certain modifications, though. An address was indicated where one could obtain advice on the matter. But we need a compatible video camera and not advice. Where are we to get it? And what are we to do with the one we received? For now, the expensive equipment is standing idle.

Abusers of Alcohol Penalized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 86 p 2

[Follow-up on letter to editor, under the rubric "Steps Have Been Taken in Response to Reports From Readers"]

[Text] Military employee V. Fedoseyevskaya wrote to the editor regarding infractions of order and cases of drunkenness in the military collective in which she works.

Colonel S. Podolskiy, deputy chief of the Political Directorate of the North Caucasus Military District, reported to the editorial office that the facts had been confirmed. Major Koshanov and Captain Korovin have been expelled from the CPSU and admonished for not fully measuring up in the service.

Employment Improprieties

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 86 p 2

[Follow-up on letter to editor, under the rubric "Steps Have Been Taken in Response to Reports From Readers"]

[Text] In a letter to the editor Soviet Army employees Goshtovit, Kuznetsova, Gerasimchuk and others reported on an abnormal situation which had developed through the fault of Lieutenant Colonel V. Rudenskiy, UNR [work supervisor's section] chief, and his wife, L. Kitsyuk, which was creating a problem in the collective.

The editorial office sent the letter to the Political Directorate of the Transbaykal Military District. Lieutenant General I. Solodilov, member of the district military council and chief of the political directorate, reported that an investigation has confirmed the facts. Lieutenant Colonel V. Rudenskiy was issued a stern reprimand by his commander and brought to party accountability.

Through the efforts of the trade union committee L. Kitsyuk has been discharged from her position in the UNR under Article 20 of the Labor Law, which states that it is impermissible for closely related people to work together if the job of one is directly subordinate to or under the control of the other.

Departmental Barriers in Flight Operations

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 86 p 2

[Follow-up on article, under the rubric "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Spoke Out: Replies, Responses, Results": "So That There Are No Barriers"]

[Text] "Barriers," an article by Colonels I. Kapayev and A. Andryushkov, was published on 8 June 1986. It discussed barriers erected on the route of a military transport by lack of interdepartmental coordination and the difficulties encountered by crews at intermediate airfields under different departments.

The editorial office received eight official responses. They note the importance and the authenticity of the article. Colonel General of Aviation I. Modyayev, deputy chief of main staff, Air Forces, reports that the facts cited in the article have been confirmed. The matter has been discussed at a meeting of a special commission chaired by Marshal of Aviation A. Yefimov, Commander in Chief of Air Forces, with the participation of responsible representatives of ministries and departments which use the air space of the USSR.

Measures to correct the shortcomings noted and to eliminate flight delays due to lack of coordination among departments have been defined in a document issued by the Commander in Chief of Air Forces. In order to improve the organization of transit flights, a special section, "Specific Aspects of Support for Transit Flights," has been added to the guiding documents. New documents governing the use of airfields are also being prepared.

In his reply Major General of Aviation I. Nekrakha informed the editorial office that Lieutenant Colonel V. Volkov and Major V. Kazantsev, air subunit commanders, have been admonished for unacceptably poor organization of matters pertaining to the reception and refueling and the housing of transit crews. These measures have been limited because the senior air chiefs at the airfields discussed in the article represent different departments.

In their replies, Lieutenant General of Aviation V. Bulankin, commander of Far East Military district air forces, Major General of Aviation V. Andreyev, (air defense aviation), Major General of Aviation S. Sedov, chief of staff of Transbaykal Military District Air Forces, and Colonel I. Protchenko, chief of staff of Siberian Military District Air Forces, report on specific steps taken at the sites to improve support for transit crews and on the punishment of those to blame for unjustified delays of the An-26 on the sections of its flight.

Comrade I. Shishkov, chief of the Ministry of Civil Aviation's Fuel and Lubricants Administration, informs the editorial office that there was sufficient aircraft fuel at the airfield and that the An-26 was refueled in good time. He maintains that "there have never before been any complaints about the refueling of aircraft belonging to the Ministry of Defense when they have landed at airfields of the Ministry of Defense, even when the supply of aircraft fuel was limited at enterprises of the Ministry of Defense."

Major General N. Sadovnikov, chief of the Ministry of Defense's Main Trade Directorate, informs the editorial office that in the past aircraft carrying early fruits and vegetables have remained for long periods at intermediate airfields because of various kinds of "barriers," which has resulted in deterioration of the produce. The handling of military air transport crews has improved since the article was published. Around 300 tons of fresh strawberries were delivered in good time by air in July of this year, and for the first time they were hauled without losses to Kamchatka, Sakhalin and certain garrisons in the Far North.

The replies indicate that serious steps have been taken in response to the newspaper article to prevent unjustified delays of transit crews at airfields of different departments. We have not received exhaustive replies to all the questions raised in the article, however. Specifically, the article told how the aircraft was 3 days behind schedule in taking off from the airfield of departure. The takeoff notification was postponed while they waited for Warrant Officer A. Shkolnikov, who, at the orders of his command element, was to deliver part of the cargo for the Far Easterners. They left before either the warrant officer or the cargo had arrived, however.

Nor is the editorial office entirely satisfied with the aforementioned, optimistic reply from Comrade I. Shishkov, chief of the Fuel and Lubricants Directorate of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MGA). Everything had to do with the refueling of the aircraft alone, even though the problem of "bringing together" the crews of the military air transports and the Ministry of Civil Aviation services involved goes considerably beyond that. Before refueling, after all, it is necessary to land at the given airfield after receiving proper authorization. And the request from the An-26 crew discussed in the article was refused by the corresponding services at three airfields--Orenburg, Penza and Magnitogorsk--in just one day, which cited lack of fuel as the reason.

In short, there is justification for saying that the interdepartmental barriers have been weakened. They should be eliminated resolutely and uncompromisingly at all levels, however, at all the "connections."

Problems in Military Construction Continue

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 86 p 2

[Second letter of complaint and follow-up under the rubric "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Spoke Out: Replies, Responses, Results": "...But the Breakdowns Continue"]

[Text] On 25 January of this year KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published a letter from some construction brigade leaders under the heading "Planned Breakdowns." It discussed the unsatisfactory organization of the work in the construction directorate headed by Lieutenant Colonel V. Potapov. On 8 April we reported to the readers on steps taken by the superior military construction organization to establish order.

The editorial office recently received a second letter from the same individuals, however:

"We express our profound gratitude to the editorial office for the fact that the questions we raised were very correctly understood and described in the newspaper. There are no words to describe our indignation at the position taken by our leaders, however. They have essentially gotten off with formal replies to your office.

"The leadership of the construction organization did in fact conduct a conference with our participation. The criticism was acknowledged to be just. We were asked to work better, workers at the reinforced concrete plant were put to shame, and everyone received a lot of promises: to improve the machinery situation, the supply of materials, and so forth.

"The promises remained on paper, however. The plant continues to turn out products of poor quality with joinery items of various grades, and systematically fails to meet delivery schedules. Our directorate's losses continue to mount for all cost items, including wages. The latter is due to the need to rectify the defective work of others and to the growth of average piece-rate payments for jobs performed by workers not in their field. We still do not have everything we need for two apartment buildings under construction. In short, nothing has changed. As a result of all these "measures," part of the workers have been discharged, including installation brigade leader A. Strelkov and half the brigade. And this brigade was one of the best in our directorate.

"The path of restructuring which we have taken is not strewn with roses. The party now says openly and candidly that there may be difficulties and we are not immune to errors, but the main thing right now is to move purposefully, step by step, in the direction we have chosen. And this course is followed in each brigade with conscientious labor, increasing the sense of responsibility for the assigned job. We are being hampered in this, however, and we appeal once again to our leaders, both local and on the higher level, to help us, to provide us with everything we need, and we shall advance confidently, picking up speed, and shall not bring shame to the great title of construction worker."

A. Turko, A. Lukin, V. Krivetskiy and
T. Zvereva, construction brigade leaders

The editorial office has asked the superior military construction organization to get to the bottom of the situation and take proper steps. This is what Lieutenant Colonel V. Khvostov, temporary acting chief of the political section, has reported.

The letter from the construction brigade leaders has been discussed by a special commission, which visited the site. Despite the steps which have been taken by management and the political section of the construction organization, the state of affairs is indeed changing extremely slowly.

The plant producing the reinforced concrete items for the erection of prefabricated apartment buildings, which has not yet reached rated capacity, continues to perform unsatisfactorily. A certain increase in output has led to a deterioration in product quality, which is evoking justified complaints on the part of the brigade leaders and members.

The second letter was discussed at a joint party meeting of Communists from the reinforced concrete plant and the construction directorate. An operations group of specialists has now been set up to help organize production at the plant. The apartment buildings under construction by the brigades have been provided with all the needed reinforced concrete items.

Steps have been taken to enhance the responsibility of the management cadres. V. Yakukhnov, chief of one of the sections of the UNR [work supervisor's section] for mechanization, has been removed from his position. V. Kapustin, the directorate's former chief engineer, has been demoted.

Steps have been outlined for ensuring the absolute fulfillment of this year's housing construction plan.

Mismanagement at Naval Base

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 86 p 2

[Follow-up on second letter of complaint, under the rubric "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Spoke Out: Replies, Responses, Results": "A Result of Mismanagement: Steps Have Been Taken"]

[Text] On 15 December 1982 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published a letter from Major (Retired) S. Artyushenko under the heading "A Monument to Mismanagement." The author reported cases of wastefulness at the base of one of the Pacific Fleet units. A marine engine was being stored in the open there, disassembled and without proper security. The appropriate officials reported to the editorial office that the situation had been put into order.

Major (Retired) S. Artyushenko recently turned to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA again, however. And once again, regarding the same engine. The steps taken in the fleet, he wrote, proved inadequate. The shed erected over the engine has collapsed. The expensive unit is once again rusting and being ruined. That is not all. Yet another marine engine received by the fleet later lies near it in the same deplorable state.

The editorial office asked Vice Admiral V. Zaytsev, Deputy Commander in Chief of the Navy and Chief of the Main Technical Directorate of the Navy, and Colonel of Justice V. Kaunin, Judge Advocate of the Pacific Fleet, to get to the bottom of this dragged-out matter. They reported that the facts cited in Comrade Artyushenko's letter had been confirmed. Having completed its job of correcting the shortcomings with respect to the engine's safekeeping in May of 1983, the Pacific Fleet's Technical Directorate then relaxed its control and let things go along on their own again. As a result, the unit is in worse condition today than it was in 1982.

The Commander of the Pacific Fleet issued an order based on the findings in the investigation. It contained instructions for bringing equipment storage conditions into conformity with the established requirements and for preserving it. Captain 2nd Rank V. Medvedev, commander of the base, has been removed from his position and recommended for discharge into the reserve for his negligence. Rear

4 December 1986

Admiral V. Garbarets, Chief of the Pacific Fleet's Technical Directorate, Captain 1st Rank F. Koyfman, a section chief in the same directorate, Captain 2nd Rank G. Savchenko, chief of the workshop, and Captain 3rd Rank N. Zhitkevich, deputy commander of the base, have also been disciplined. In addition, Rear Admiral V. Garbarets and Captain 1st Rank V. Samozhenov have been sternly admonished for not adequately monitoring the performance of subordinate sections and services with respect to organizing record-keeping and the safekeeping of material.

Shortcomings in Construction

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 86 p 2

[Follow-up on article, under the rubric "Following the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Article": "Construction Completed, Repairs Begun..."]

[Text] The above was the title of an article published on 10 July. It discussed serious errors and violations in the construction of a number of social and cultural facilities at one of the garrisons.

Major General Ye. Kulagin, Deputy Commander for Construction and Billeting of the Moscow Military District, has reported to the editorial office that the newspaper article was discussed at a meeting of the construction directorate's party aktiv and in the collectives of billeting organizations. The necessary steps have been taken to rectify the defects and shortcomings in construction.

The officials to blame for these deficiencies have been brought to accountability. Colonel V. Yefimov, UNR [work supervisor's section] chief, and Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Pyanov, chief engineer, have been disciplined by order of the district commander. Majors M. Zhirnov and S. Timofeyev and Captains A. Chepyrigin and I. Mikhalev, section chiefs, have been disciplined and held materially accountable. Party penalties have been imposed upon Communists V. Yefimov and Yu. Pyanov, and Communists I. Mikhalev and S. Timofeyev have been issued warnings.

Additional steps have been outlined and are being implemented in the district construction directorate and billeting directorate to intensify control over adherence to the construction technology and quality.

Colonel of Justice Yu. Yerin, temporary acting judge advocate for the Moscow Military District, has informed the editorial office that the garrison judge advocate's office has warned a number of officials about the inadmissibility of violating the law. These include Lieutenant Colonel A. Novodvorskiy and Lieutenant Colonel F. Klus.

Report on Editor's Mail

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Sep 86 p 2

[Report under the rubric "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Mailbag"]

[Text] The editorial office received 9,016 letters from readers in August, 401 of which were published in the newspaper. There were 399 responses to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA articles.

Standing out in the editor's mailbag for the last month of summer are letters in which our readers express fervent approval of the foreign and domestic policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet government--specifically, the statement by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee M.S. Gorbachev on extending the moratorium on nuclear explosions.

The Soviet people and fightingmen of the army and navy unanimously speak out in support of this historic document and protest the near-sighted, irresponsible policy of the American administration. Almost every one of these letters contains words about personal responsibility for the fate of peace and express a readiness to enhance the nation's economic and military might and to increase vigilance and combat readiness. Major Yu. Borodin of the Transbaykal Military District, Lieutenant Colonel of Justice (Reserve) V. Levchenko of Khabarovsk, former front-line fighters N. Mareshov of Chemkent Oblast and Major (Retired) N. Slyudarenko of Cherkassy, and others have written to the editor about this.

As in previous months, many letters have arrived about the restructuring, about its effect upon the combat and political training, the socialist competition and public life in the military collectives. Where the people have begun with themselves, many of the readers conclude, with a restructuring of their thinking and mental attitude, and the organization, methods and style of their work, the successes are more apparent and the moral atmosphere is purer. They consider the paramount task of the day to be that of increasing discipline, responsibility, creativity and productivity, each at his own job, of being closer to the people and understanding their needs.

For example, the families of servicemen S. Yemelin and S. Lapotko write from the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "We have known Colonel N. Svishchev for 4 years. People turn to him with all their service and personal difficulties, and they always receive the most kindly attention. Even when it is late, he will find a free minute to listen to a person. He never uses the excuse of being busy or tired. He is well-known for being able to instantly familiarize himself with a situation and immediately suggest the best solution to any problem."

It is noteworthy that along with many letters about positive experience, about the establishment of a climate of initiative, efficiency, creativity and self-criticalness, the August mailbag also contained numerous critical reports and complaints. Their authors thoroughly analyze the state of affairs and attempt to find efficacious solutions with respect to improving the training and indoctrinational process and strengthening military discipline and order.

One continues to be struck by the large number of letters having to do with deficiencies in personnel policy. The readers report cases of protectionism, the promotion of officials who have compromised themselves to higher positions, deficiencies in the advancement of officers, seagoing and shore-based warrant officers in the service, unjustified delays in awarding regular promotions in rank and red tape in finding people and documents for confirmation of service.

Guards Warrant Officer M. Babayev, for example, reports from the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan that after completing the warrant officer school he was assigned to the Baltic Military District and was then sent to perform his international duty in Afghanistan. The author of the letter commands a

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platoon there and has been awarded the medal "For Valor." He is supposed to be replaced in April of 1987, but no personal file has been started for him yet. Repeated requests to the unit in which he formerly served have produced nothing.

There were many complaints about the performance of military commissariats, acceptance commissions for military educational institutions and personal agencies for selecting candidates and filling out the papers for them. The mail indicates that there is still a lot of bias, formalism and insensitivity in these matters. The editorial office has sent these letters to the proper authorities with the hope that the guilty parties will be punished and necessary steps taken to prevent such things in the future.

Unfortunately, the response to the readers' letters is not always prompt or effective. Here is just one example. Our reader Vladimir Zakharovich Filkov of Bobruysk writes KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that repair work on his apartment have taken more than a year now. The editorial office sent his statement to the headquarters of the Belorussian Military District. The writer received a letter from there, signed by Major General I. Kozhevnikov. It stated that the apartment repairs would be completed within a month. Comrade Filkov recently wrote a second letter to the editor: the month had passed, but the authoritative (was it authoritative?) promise had not been kept. And a great deal is being said about consideration for people and about the restructuring at conferences and meetings in the district.

The restructuring is a dictate of the times. And it must be effected not in words but in deeds. This is the conclusion drawn in many letters in our August mailbag.

Officer's Pay Held Up

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Sep 86 p 2

[Follow-up on article, under the rubric "Following the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Article": "A Land Odyssey"]

[Text] A letter from Captain 2nd Rank V. Makarov was published under the above heading on 25 June of this year. The author wrote that he had been waiting a long time for certain kinds of pay and allowances. The editorial office received several official replies to the article. Admiral V. Ponikarovskiy, Chief of the Naval Academy imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union A.A. Grechko, reported that all of the required payments had been made to Captain 2nd Rank Makarov.

A reply signed by Colonel A. Lvov stated that what happened was a result of red tape, formalism and inefficiency in the work of Majors A. Filonenko and Ye. Ushakov. The latter's performance was poorly monitored by Colonel N. Baranov. A reprimand was issued to Major A. Filonenko by order of the unit commander for the deficiencies, and the matter was brought up at a party meeting. Captain 2nd Rank V. Makarov received apologies along with the payments.

A reply from Lieutenant Colonel G. Sukhanov also mentioned the red tape in finance operations. A reprimand was issued to Officers B. Teplov and S. Rusanov, and a stern reprimand was issued to Warrant Officer Yu. Miloserdov, those to blame for the red tape.

Commentary on Article "A Land Odyssey"

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Sep 86 p 2

From the editor: It would seem that the situation about which Captain 2nd Rank V. Makarov wrote to the newspaper has been straightened out. Some questions raised by it are still open, however. Among other things, a number of the replies cited instances of scandalous irresponsibility. In one case officials had taken no steps from October 1985 to July 1986 in response to a request for an explanation of why the percentile increments for length of service had not been paid to an officer transferred to a new assignment. In another, a finance worker indicated an incorrect number for the military unit, and those who should have spotted this discrepancy in the documents did not act in good time.

Why, one asks, was the complete system of financial checks not "activated" until after Makarov had turned to the editorial office for assistance? "It is disappointing, very disappointing," wrote Captain G. Onishchenko, a reader, in a letter expressing his feelings about the naval officer's "land odyssey, "to experience such indifference on the part of officials in shoulder-boards. I would like to see workers with the monitoring agencies, those whose inaction contributed to the development of this unpleasant situation, brought to account as well."

It would be difficult to disagree with the letter writer.

Mismanagement, Waste in Training Matters

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Sep 86 p 2

[Follow-up on article, under the rubric "Following the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA article": "Outlays and Results"]

[Text] The above was the heading of a report from Lieutenant Colonel V. Zverev, published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 15 April. It discussed mismanagement and waste in the use of funds and materials allocated for combat training needs, and neglect of the material-technical base by certain people in charge at the training center where Captain N. Kazantsev is chief of staff, in the unit in which Colonel I. Ibatullin serves, and in certain other subunits of the Transcaucasus Military District.

Major General Yu. Zaytsev, deputy district commander for combat training, and Colonel of Justice V. Gladkov, acting district judge advocate, reported to the editorial office that the facts had been confirmed. Captain H. Kazantsev, Major M. Petrykin, Colonel N. Ibatullin and Warrant Officer M. Asadov have been disciplined and held materially accountable. Lieutenant Colonel M. Martirosov, guilty of infractions involving the use of funds and materials for other than their designated purpose, has been discharged into the reserve. An administrative investigation has been conducted in the unit in which Lieutenant Colonel A. Pilyugin is deputy commander. Individuals guilty of dismantling a trainer have been disciplined and held materially accountable.

An assembly of chiefs of district training centers was held, which discussed the requirements contained in documents governing the procedure and the rules for using money and materiel. Officials of the district staff and directorates are rigidly monitoring the observance of the requirements.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Actions in Response to Readers' Complaints

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 86 p 2

[Text] "Dear Editors! I am Kostina, A. P., the mother of a soldier who is serving in the Soviet Army. While fulfilling his duty (he is a driver), my son was detained by state motor vehicle inspection workers in the city of Nakhichevan and beaten. Can such acts be permitted by officials who are called upon to maintain law and order, even if my son violated driving regulations?"

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA asked the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs to look into this matter. Comrade I. Melnik, deputy chief of the Cadres Directorate, USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], responded. The response stated that state motor vehicle inspector Gusseyinov of the Nakhichevan GOVD [City Internal Affairs Department] and area inspector Annagiyev of the same department, upon detaining serviceman Kostina and Sgt Muravyev, who was with him, gave them a beating. Officer of the day Shukyurov, of the city department, instead of preventing the unlawful actions of Gusseyinov and Annagiyev, himself insulted Kostin. The Nakhichevan prosecutor's office instituted criminal proceedings on this matter, and the guilty parties were placed under arrest. By order of the minister of internal affairs, Nakhichevan ASSR, Gusseyinov, Annagiyev and Shukyurov were dismissed from the internal affairs organs.

Readers from one of our military encampments wrote the newspaper that the command was not demonstrating concern about the living conditions of the families of servicemen.

The letter was sent to the next higher political organ. As Col V. Petrochenko reported, the facts were confirmed. Urgent measures were taken to satisfy the needs of the families of servicemen and to provide them with an uninterrupted supply of products. The command and representatives of the Military Trading Organization held a consumers' conference with residents of the military encampment, at which a public control commission was elected to watch over the operation of the store. Presently bakery and dairy products are being delivered to the store regularly. A system of orders for required goods and foodstuffs has been introduced at the store.

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Lt Col V. Yanchuk placed an order at the military trade tailoring shop to have a military uniform sewed. After a long wait he went for his order, but had to refuse to accept it due to low quality sewing. This was the reason for the officer's appeal to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

Col L. Lets, chief of the Trade Directorate, Volga Military District, to whom the reader's complaint was addressed, informed the editors that the facts were completely confirmed. Comrade Yanchuk's complaint was discussed at a meeting of the labor collective, and those at fault were punished.

Comrade A. Suleymanova, shop supervisor, was removed from her position. The order for sewing the uniform was fulfilled again.

Gasoline Misappropriation Coverup Disclosed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by Lt Col N. Fedoseyev, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Siberian Military District: "The Lesson was Not Learned"]

[Text] Lt Col A. Silyutin, chief of the Aviation Commandant's Office, read attentively the letters sent to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA by PFCs V. Barkhatov and A. Tyryshkin (now already reserve soldiers). Anatoliy Dmitriyevich shook his head and expressed puzzled surprise as he read each fact, as if wondering how it could come into people's heads to make such a thing up. Then he discussed for a long time who the writers of these letters are: violators of discipline and unconscientious people. For the sake of fairness, it must be said that the authors truly were not distinguished by a high level of discipline during their service. But, I reminded Silyutin, we were not talking about them, but about the accuracy of the facts stated in the letters.

"Everything here is untrue," Silyutin swept aside the facts peremptorily.

It was necessary to ask why the party commission of the district Air Forces Political Department had given him a strict reprimand, and the district Air Force Commander had warned him about not fully meeting his professional responsibilities. And then he acknowledged: Yes, there was a case of drinking while off duty. And he was also punished for the fact that, supposedly, subordinates worked on building his "datcha" (country cottage).

Anatoliy Dmitriyevich said, "supposedly," thereby placing in doubt the fairness of his punishment.

"I did not even know that my subordinates were working on the "datcha," he asserted fervently. "It was later that my son stated that he had called one of the soldiers to help unload construction materials from a vehicle."

To put it mildly, Silyutin dissembled. The commissions from higher headquarters, which previously checked yet another complaint, established precisely: Four of Col Silyutin's subordinates worked for a number of days, on instructions from the colonel, building his "datcha." They worked, as the

saying goes, by the sweat of their brows. It was also confirmed that Lt Col Silyutin had repeatedly appeared at work intoxicated.

He also committed other violations of moral norms. On one occasion, after his apartment was repaired, it was necessary to clean it up, and he immediately dispatched PVT V. Gaydamak and other subordinates to do this. When his personal vehicle had to be washed he assigned PVT Z. Khurramov to wash it. And Silyutin ordered PVT V. Murashko to fill up the gas tank of his personal Zhigulis.

From where did Murashko get the gasoline? As a check of the presence and proper expenditure of fuel and lubricants showed, record keeping and control of the expenditure of GSM [POL -- petroleum, oils and lubricants] in the commandant's office is badly neglected, which makes it possible to squander the public wealth.

Many drivers confirmed instances of this squandering. A river of fuel flowed "on the side" in vehicle fuel tanks and even in barrels.

"This cannot be!" exclaimed with one voice Lt Col A. Silyutin and extended service MSgt V. Belolipetskiy, acting chief of the POL Service. However, there was nowhere to run to escape the facts, and Belolipetskiy "found himself." He said that he had issued gasoline...for coupons. Then, supposedly, the unit's vehicles were filled up for these coupons when they went on long trips. I will discuss these "trips" in more detail.

Once all drivers were ordered to assemble in the Lenin Room. Belolipetskiy initially passed out to them completed transport work tickets, and hurried efforts began to replace the old work tickets with new ones. In them the "necessary" kilometrage and illegible signatures were filled in, and so that all of this fake documentation appeared accurate, the new transport work tickets were soiled with an oily driver's glove. These documents were made up not only for those vehicles which were in operation, but also for those which were not in use. Here is one example. A ZIL-130 truck, according to the documents, burned more than three tons of gasoline in several days. Meanwhile, this truck stood in the motor park unrepaired since December of last year. There are numerous such facts. This was done in order to cover up a shortage of fuel.

I look at the indictments for destruction of the transport work tickets for last year. The conclusion of the commission headed by Capt P. Rumyantsev, deputy chief of the Aviation Commandant's Office for political affairs, are the same from one document to the next: "All the transport work tickets were filled out correctly." It turns out that the commission essentially did not check, but covered up the machinations with the gasoline.

When I told Lt Col Silyutin about the manipulations with the transport work tickets, he acted as though this was the first time he had heard of it. Having summoned Belolipetskiy, Anatoliy Dmitriyevich on the spot spewed forth his anger on him.

But, even if it is assumed that he "was not involved," can this really serve as a justification? The sole commander is responsible for everything which takes place in the subunit entrusted to him and, if he is fulfilling his duties as prescribed by regulations, as his party conscience commands, he will not permit such violations. There simply will be no soil for them to grow in. Here, as was noted above, the communist-leader himself commits violations of regulatory and party norms, and disdains elementary ethics.

I would especially like to talk about the position of Capt P. Rumyantsev, the political officer, who is also the party organization secretary. Strange as it may seem, Rumyantsev viewed and continues to view all of these violations calmly. He feels that nothing special occurred; just a small discrepancy with the motor transport tickets.

Thinking about what I had seen in my trip to check on the letters to the editor, I asked myself the question: Why did this become possible in a subunit whose commander had already been strictly punished? The conclusion is self-evident: Appropriate officials, once they reacted to the shortcomings which had been disclosed, were satisfied. No one took an interest in the outcome of the measures which had been taken.

Automatic Bombing Range Sensors Described

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by Capt N. Kozyakov: "Plus Savings on the Range"]

[Text] "The Pencil or the Computer" -- this response published on 4 July to an article by Col Gen Avn A. Borsuk, "Savings on Training Flights" (29 April), encouraged Col A. Kalmykov to take up his pen. He expressed his complete agreement: Working in the old way leads to unjustified losses of material and human resources and reduces the quality of military training.

In my letter I wish to discuss the important question of economizing on the range, since I have served six years on an aviation range and have seen many unjustified expenditures. During flights we send out observers (three-four men) to hills, then deliver hot food to them and then make trips in order to bring our subordinates back. As a result, an imposing figure on kilometers of motor vehicle travel is obtained. And what if the sandy road cover is considered? In short, expenditure of fuels, lubricants and motor transport resources is considerable.

I wish to propose that we do away with observers altogether. It is necessary to set up a system on the range which, without human participation, can give accurate information on bomb strikes. To the best of my knowledge, such systems exist. Each of them consists of several seismic sensors, set in earthen wells. Information from these sensors is sent out instantaneously and with high accuracy, which makes it possible rapidly to adjust the actions of the crew. Naturally, with such monitoring the effectiveness of military training also improves.

Military Commissariat Officials Reprimanded

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 86 p 2

[Unsigned Article: "Bureaucrats from the Military Commissariat's Office"]

[Text] This was the title of a letter written to the editors by VOYENNIYE ZNANIYA worker, V. Gorlov, published on 12 June. It discussed how a group of youths, having completed the Serpukhovskiy Aviation Sports Club of DOSAAF [Voluntary Society for Cooperation with the Armed Forces] and decided to enter together the Borisoglebsk Higher Military Aviation School for Pilots imeni V. P. Chkalov, did not find understanding and support at the Serpukhovskiy combined military commissariat's office. They began to prepare documents for the young men assigning them to various schools.

The editors received a response, signed by Maj Gen N. Logvinov, Moscow Oblast military commissar and Col B. Krylov, chief of the Military Commissariat's Office Political Department. The letter reported that Maj V. Zavrzhnov and Warrant Officer V. Lyubimtsev, employees of the Serpukhov Military Commissariat's Office, received strict warnings for the inattentive attitude toward a number of graduates of the DOSAAF Serpukhovskiy Aviation Sports Club, during the period that documents were being prepared for them to attend aviation school. Lt Col N. Suvkov, the military commissar, was cited for poor control over the duty activity of his subordinates.

At the same time, the response reported that the oblast military commissariat's office was not informed in a timely manner by the Moscow Obkom of DOSAAF, about the circumstances associated with graduates of the aviation sports club. Therefore, the required number of places in the school were not allocated to the Serpukhov combined military commissariat's office. The list of candidates was received at the oblast military commissariat's office in March, and only in May did representatives of the DOSAAF obkom appeal to the oblast military commissariat's office concerning the preparation of files.

The reply also indicated that the author of the letter, V. Gorlov, did not meet with workers of the military commissariat's office, and made a number of inaccurate statements in setting forth the facts.

Complaints About Aircraft Maintenance Ignored

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by Col V. Kiryazov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "How Criticism was Received"]

[Text] Dear editors!

On 28 May KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published my letter "Mechanics...for Show." It concerned the fact that mechanics on our flights appear only during the times when inspectors are working in the regiment, and usually it is necessary to maintain the equipment without them, which has a negative effect on the quality of its preparation, and

in the final analysis on flight safety. After its publication there was a meeting of the regiment's officers, at which the commander called me the "scandal monger who wrote a letter with a hangover."

A few days later I was shown the response to the editors, with which I do not agree and which I consider not objective. It contains not a word about the nine mechanics who, by the way, receive money for being class qualified, but are located who knows where, and about the mechanics who appear at the airfield when a commission was coming. In the first letter I reported that I was unjustly punished. And in response it stated that no one had punished me. But this, to put it mildly, does not correspond to reality. The squadron commander gave me a reprimand at the time, however it was not placed in my record of service card. Showing me this document, they now assert that I lied. Yes, the punishment was not recorded, but I had to live through it!

I am sorry that the commander did not understand my alarm. I did not write slander, but a letter based on my concern about preserving costly equipment and the lives of those who fly it. Our commander is a magnificent pilot, yes and other aerial warriors are his equals. It is about their safe flying that I am concerned. And, of course, I was sorry to hear when Lt Col N. Ivanov, for example, at a discussion of my letter asked with irritation: "Who are you to get mixed up in questions of flight safety?" I wanted to answer, but I was ordered to stand and be silent. Meanwhile, as an aircraft mechanic and officer I bear total responsibility for the safety of the flights. Senior Lieutenant V. Okhotnikov

The editors did not receive a reply about measures taken with respect to the letter by Sr Lt Okhotnikov published on 28 May. And then, here comes a second letter. I was interested in why the appropriate officials have such a strange attitude toward criticism in the press. It became clear that the reply to the editors actually was prepared in the aviation regiment and sent through channels, i.e., to the higher headquarters. And already at the first stage of its journey, it, alas, became lost somewhere. Lt Col V. Osadchiy, with whom I spoke on this matter, promised to correct the error. Soon afterwards I read the reply, written by the officials whom Okhotnikov had criticized.

"After the appearance of the article (?) by Sr Lt Okhotnikov, the unit command had a talk with the author to clarify the reasons for his letter and the reliability of the facts stated in the note. The author recognizes that the material is limited, in particular, to the place where he wrote, and that the regiment had definite successes in the results of the 1985 training year and the winter period of 1986. (But is this really the essence of the issue raised by the author? -- Ed.) The matter of punishment was inaccurate. (What actually happened Okhotnikov reported in his second letter, which was checked by the correspondent. -- Ed.) The fact of undermanning of junior aviation specialists, especially mechanics, from mandatory service category soldiers and sergeants, was true..."

Let us break off this quotation. The reply does not provide a clear answer to any of the issues posed by the letter's author. And the fact of repression of criticism and the attempt to degrade the author of the critical letter to the editor is obvious. It is amazing that this occurred at a time when our party is waging an uncompromising struggle against such phenomena.

And the question of mechanics for show, as we see, remained open.

School Responds on Student Dismissals

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Sep 86 p 2

[Unsigned Article: "Easily and Hastily..."]

[Text] This was the title of critical correspondence published on 1 June in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, which concerned the story of dismissing five students, former sergeants and soldiers, from the Kolomna Higher Artillery Command School imeni October Revolution.

The response received by the editors, signed by Maj Gen A. Mikhaylov, chief of the school, and Col N. Milannikov, chief of the school political department, stated that the article was discussed at a meeting of school leaders and a session of the school soviet, as well as at a meeting of students who are former mandatory service soldiers and sergeants. It was recommended that commanders, political officers and instructors study more attentively and thoroughly the moral-political and professional qualities of soldiers and sergeants who enter the school from troop units.

A meeting with the commanders of student subunits was held, at which questions of individual indoctrination work with this category of students were examined.

For omissions in indoctrination work with his subordinates, Capt V. Gorelov, battery commander, was reduced in duty position to platoon commander, by order of the military district commander, and he also received a party punishment.

Formalism in Student-Officer Selection Decried

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by Maj A. Vorsin, zonal rayon military commissar, Altay Kray: "With One Stroke of the Pen"]

[Text] Military commissariat workers must invest much work, energy, yes and time, in order to select the most deserving of the youths who have decided to become officers. And how vexing it is when this painstaking work goes for nought simply because our common and very important task of making selections for military educational institutions, at times falls into the hands of indifferent people.

In front of me is a pile of personal files on candidates for military schooling which were returned from the schools to the military commissariat's

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office. For various reasons the applications of the youths to take entrance examinations were rejected. And no matter how hard I tried to understand the reasons for these rejections, I cannot acknowledge a single one of them as justified.

We selected school graduate Ye. Durakov to attend the Kachinskoye Higher Military Aviation School for Pilots imeni A. F. Myasnikov. Repeated conversations with him convinced the military commissariat workers that the youth had selected the profession of military pilot consciously and had prepared persistently to realize his dream. He completed his schooling with only good and excellent marks on his certificate. For two years he was elected secretary of his school komsomol organization. The recommendations presented to us were favorable in every way. And the conclusion reached by two military medical commissions, rayon and kray, about his fitness for flying without any limitations, convinced us definitively that the candidate's choice of professions had been correctly made.

However, Durakov's personal file was returned to the military commissariat's office. The accompanying note, signed by Lt Col Ye. Grishin, chief secretary of the school admissions commission, stated that the candidate was considered unfit for flight training in connection with the detection in him of deviations from health norms.

In many years of work in military commissariat's offices I have encountered all manner of form letters, but this is the first time for one such as this. It is entirely incomprehensible how it is possible, without seeing the man, and without examining him, but only on the basis of his personal file, to make such a diagnosis in the young man's absence.

But, perhaps we erred in something. Perhaps both of our medical commissions made mistakes? To establish the truth, at the request of the military commissariat's office, the correctness of the diagnosis was checked by medical specialists from the city of Biysk. After examining the youth they came to the same conclusion (the diagnosis is erroneous and the patient is healthy and fit for military service).

This is how indifferently, with one stroke of the pen, some officials decide the fate of young people and make null and void their destiny.

I will not bring up other examples. They are similar. I would only like to ask: Who should bear responsibility for such a formalistic attitude toward the selection of young people for military schools?

Military-Economic Issues Noted

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 86 p 2

[Unsigned Articles]

[Text] "Contracting Was Given the Green Light, But..." was the title of correspondence by Lt Col S. Anoshchenko, published on 25 Jul 86, which discussed the slow pace of introduction of collective contracting in sovkhoses

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of the Central Asian Military District. As Col Gen I. Isayenko, chief of the Central Food Directorate, USSR Ministry of Defense, reported to the editors, the criticism of leaders of the okrug agricultural enterprises was correct. The article was discussed at party meetings in SAVO [Central Asian Military District] military sovkhozes. For violations, pacifism and poor organizational work in introducing collective contracting, Lt Col D. Kodachenko, okrug food service officer, I. Mitskevich, chief bookkeeper, as well as A. Getman, sovkhoz director, were brought to party and disciplinary accountability. V. Kholodnyy, chief agronomist of the Burnenskiy Sovkhoz, was removed from his position.

At the present time, as is reported in the reply, the okrug food service has developed and sent to every agricultural enterprise a plan of measures to be taken to shift to brigade contracting by the end of 1986.

"Reserve Savings in Action."

Under this title on 16 August a survey was published of the journal TYL VOORUZHENNIYKH SIL on the journal's experience in bringing out questions of saving material and monetary resources.

Col P. Altunin, chief editor of the journal, reported: The review was thoroughly discussed at a meeting of editors and in the party organization. Measures have been outlined to increase the activeness of work by the editors on this most important topical area. In particular, a plan was compiled for publishing materials on economic topics in 1987. Also taken into account was the newspaper's desire that those who squander material and monetary resources be subjected to sharper and more frequent criticism. The editors will struggle more persistently to make the journal articles effective and will systematically inform its readers about measures taken with respect to critical publications.

Criticism of Military Construction Acknowledged

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 86 p 2

[Unsigned Article: "The Quality of Work by Military Construction Personnel"]

[Text] This was the title of the lead article published on 7 June. It concerned ways of improving the quality of production in military enterprises and at construction projects. A number of critical remarks were made about certain collectives which are not paying the required attention to these matters. During the time which has elapsed, measures have been taken in these military construction organizations to improve the situation.

As Lt Gen V. Charkin, chief, Main Military Construction Directorate, USSR Ministry of Defense, informed the editors, the criticism of shortcomings in the organization of production and of low quality work at construction sites in the North Caucasus Military District was acknowledged to be correct. By order of the military district commander, a large group of officials who were at fault in this matter were punished. Comprehensive plans of specific measures to improve the quality of products manufactured have been worked out

and approved by the military district commander. Other measures have been taken to bring required order to production.

Col A. Popov, Siberian Military District deputy commander for construction and troop building, informed the editors that criticism addressed to district military construction personnel was justified and timely.

The situation with respect to construction quality and practical steps to root out decisively existing shortcomings has been discussed at meetings with commanders and political officers, in which Maj Gen A. Ovchinnikov, military soviet member and chief of the Siberian Military District Political Directorate, took part. Lieutenant colonels V. Astakhov, A. Surzhenko and V. Toropov, chiefs of military construction organizations, were heard.

The editors also received a reply from the military construction organization headed by Maj Gen K. Pogorelov. It stated that the absence of appropriate conditions for work by the brigade headed by Hero of Socialist Labor I. Osiny is in fact relevant, through the fault of the general contracting organization headed by Col A. Gorovatskiy. At present the brigade has been manned by experienced Soviet Army workers, a sphere of work and all required materials and mechanisms have been provided, and a party-komsomol group has been created in the brigade.

Readers Discuss "Construction Complex"

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by Lt Col A. Kovalchuk, chief engineer, Construction Industry Enterprise: "Experience is Reassuring" and article by Capt V. Desyaterik: "Looking at Tomorrow"]

[Text] The editors continue to receive responses to the article by Col Gen K. Vertelov: "The Construction Complex. What is It to Be?" published on 29 March. We are publishing two of them today.

"Experience is Reassuring"

I believe that KRASNAYA ZVEZDA was right to open up for broad discussion by its readers the new rubric, which comprehensively encompasses questions of improving labor effectiveness at military construction sites. This enables us to hold in our field of vision the key questions of fundamentally improving construction matters, and to solve persistently the tasks advanced by the 27th Party Congress.

I wish to express my opinion in this discussion about the "block" method of construction, purely from a practical standpoint. I was able, as we say, to feel with my own hands the production of the new type structures. As the experience of manufacturing concrete block units at our enterprise shows, introducing the new technology does not present particular difficulties. And we developed ourselves the technology itself, and working drawings of stands for molding the blocks, and technical solutions for redesign of the production sector. We also carried out the redesign through our own efforts in a total

of three months. Its proportionate cost was a little higher than four rubles per square meter of block units manufactured.

We produced the first experimental products back in 1980. They were used to complete the construction of a military construction workers' encampment. In a short period of time, with the forces of only one construction sector, there were constructed a two-story unit headquarters, three and four-story barracks, a mess hall, vegetable storage facility and traffic control point. Block units were also used on auxiliary production facilities -- in the construction of repair and mechanical shops, depots and automobile bays.

During this period we manufactured, on orders from construction organizations, more than 2,500 block units, from which buildings having a total area of more than 60,000 square meters were built. For three years already we have been manufacturing slab block units for transformer substations, completely manufactured in the factory, with installed equipment. Orders for them are increasing constantly, and savings from their introduction constitute more than 40,000 rubles per year.

In 1983 an experimental 60 apartment house made out of block units, built with the authorization of USSR Gosgrazhdanstroy [State Committee for Civil Construction and Architecture], was put into operation.

Our experience shows that the method of modular house building based on the "Blok" unitized industrial system is technically realistic and simpler, not only than large-panel, but also than other systems of unit-block construction. With working initiative, a reinforced concrete products enterprise can be redesigned quickly to manufacture unit blocks and can be shifted to the operating principle of house-construction combines.

I believe that the time has come to take specific and decisive steps to shift construction production to industrial concepts.

"Looking at Tomorrow"

Ongoing restructuring in all spheres of our life opens wide scope for initiative and a creative approach to work. As a construction officer I found for myself precisely such aspiration and inspiration to high performance in my work in the article by Col Gen K. Vertelov. Truly, labor productivity of military construction personnel is increasing from year to year. But at what tempos? Yes, and try to obtain from military construction personnel in two years of service the results of skilled masons.

Seemingly, the costs of small-scale mechanization should be recovered. But, alas, the low level of training of military construction personnel comes into play when they are used. Equipment quickly becomes inoperable and mechanics prefer to keep it in the depots. Of course, improving the mechanization of construction work is extremely necessary. But, I believe that it is obvious to all those who work directly at construction sites that a fundamentally new step in the industrialization of construction production and a decisive reexamination of all technology are required.

This is how the author of the article poses the question, as he opens up prospects for development of construction matters. They literally stirred me up. Designing mobile production and residential complexes, creating flexible construction systems with a limited number of design elements, developing the construction complex of the future -- this is the cause to which I would like to dedicate my life.

FROM THE EDITORS. At present development of the comprehensive special-purpose "Blok" program in capital construction in the USSR Ministry of Defense is being completed. It provides for extensive use of the unit-block construction method in the erection of production facilities and engineering structures. Notable steps in unit-block house construction are contemplated. After the new program is approved the editors will regularly describe the course of its fulfillment.

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CSO: 1801/18

4 December 1986

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

COLONEL GENERAL SMIRNOV CRITICIZES PHYSICAL TRAINING OF PVO TROOPS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by Col Gen A. Smirnov, deputy commander of PVO Troops for Military Training, chief of military training of PVO Troops: "Endurance Potential"]

[Text] During these fall days the traditional review of mass sports work is being conducted in the air defense troops. During the course of the work I encountered this fact. The inspectors did not give deserved high marks or note the sports achievements in the battalion commanded by Col L. Kalechenkov. The reason was omissions in maintaining the sports complex.

Meanwhile, in the battalion the sports complex does not stand idle. The training facilities, weights and dumbbells are used by the soldiers during their planned exercises, and in hours of rest as a means of relaxation after standing combat watch. Naturally, under these conditions here and there the paint will peel and sand is not sprinkled on the paths and grounds every day. On the other hand, all of this is compensated for by the high level of physical tempering of the missilemen and, as a result, their high efficiency in their military posts.

Unfortunately, many inspectors are still evaluating the role of physical training and its influence on military work in the old way. If a soldier or junior officer accomplishes the exercise on the gymnastic apparatus well it is already considered that this individual meets the requirements of his service in all respects. Meanwhile, experience indicates that this is far from always the case.

There have been discussions for a number of years about the fact that it is necessary to link physical training to military training. This theme is also frequently heard in the publications of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. Therefore, the question of whether an operator needs a cross-bar is today not at all rhetorical, but is very timely. Others may see a paradox in this. They may say that to control a missile complex it is not at all necessary to have powerful biceps, and here we call upon them to take up the cross-bar. And we do not only call upon them to do so. Last year, for example, a training and methodological assembly of specialists in physical training of PVO troops was held. All the established forms were set aside and the assembly began with an experiment. Two launch batteries demonstrated their military work at the

position. One arrived marching in formation from the barracks and the other after an entire complex of tests involving great physical labor. It is clear that the result of the subunits sharply differed.

How can high results in military work be achieved with the aid of physical training? A continuation of the experiment answered this question. Members of the unit sports committee, headed by A. Ginzhuk, an all-round sportsman, developed a method for conducting comprehensive exercises in the platoons and batteries. The training day begins with drill training, which concludes with a march past with singing. Weapons drill and a peppy soldier's song gets the soldiers in the mood for the following, most difficult hours of exercises. The full subunit negotiates an obstacle field and immediately begins to fulfill the norms for disassembly and assembly of weapons. Then there follows a quick march for one and a half kilometers to the firing area, which is negotiated in individual means of protection. Smoke, fire and simulated battle noises all have a strong emotional influence and facilitate moral and psychological tempering.

Taking modern requirements into account, comprehensive exercises are filled with elements of combined arms combat. Thus, after negotiating the firing area the battery members rush forward, crawl, throw grenades and wage hand-to-hand combat. Only after this follows a one kilometer run to the launch position, where military work immediately begins. Its tempos, undoubtedly, are slower than on other days, but already after two months of exercises the results are equalized. Subsequently, physical tempering and conditioning enables the men to exceed the norms.

In the general opinion of military training specialists, such a combination of physical burdens with accomplishing tasks which are as realistic as possible are of great interest to the competitors and have a noticeable influence on the results of military work.

This year, organizers of military training in PVO units and large units were acquainted with similar comprehensive exercises. Methodological assemblies were especially organized for them. However, despite all the value of combining military and physical training, thus far there are few enthusiasts for the new training method. While in the unit where officer V. Pogorelov is a member of the sports committee the approved method is being actively introduced, in other garrisons it can still not make its way. It seems strange that, although they approve that which is new, advanced and needed for military training, commanders and sports organizers are slow to reorganize.

Why is this? I would say that many lack professional boldness. I have had occasion to ask several commanders why they are not conducting comprehensive exercises. When I did so the overwhelming majority vigorously confirmed the need to conduct them, but immediately cited difficulties. Who, they said, would maintain the fire area and who would be responsible for possible injuries. In short, the habit of working in the old way, going along the well-worn rut, when there is not even anything in particular to think about, and there are practically no responsibilities, has a telling effect. The comprehensive exercises represent a new step forward, not only in end results

in military training, but also in methodology and the system of organizational work itself.

In the unit where officer A. Shepel is a member of the sports committee, training complexes were built by skilled craftsman, which take into account the special features of service by the defenders of the skies. In the Moscow PVO District, many command posts were equipped with simulators, which actively benefited both missilemen and aviators. In other units and garrisons, "health complexes," as sports enthusiasts call them, are slow to take root. Inertness and thinking that physical training is somehow a secondary matter still prevail. In my view, this also largely explains the cool attitude toward physical culture and sport on the part of certain political workers and rear services specialists.

How can we direct the attention of all officials responsible for military training and combat readiness, to physical culture and sport? After all, it is as clear as can be that every soldier needs general endurance for combat. It is necessary to begin, as was already noted in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, in the military schools. In our military VUZes, for example, the level of physical training of graduates markedly improved in recent years and, nevertheless, one still finds lieutenants who not only cannot organize a lesson, but cannot even demonstrate one or another exercise. To wait, while they gain experience, means to lose time pointlessly. The future officer should be well and thoroughly prepared while back in school for service in the troop units. This is an axiom. However, can a graduate rapidly improve his methods if lessons were two hours long in the VUZ and 50 minutes in the regiment. Here it would be difficult even for an experienced instructor to find himself.

We are trying to correct the situation in our military schools. Senior classmen, let us say, conduct lessons according to an hour-long program with the students in junior level courses, thereby acquiring a little experience. Involving future officers in organizing school competitions in various types of sport is also of great benefit. Many receive practice in refereeing.

Individual training of students warrants particular attention in schools. Its optimal variant is when a graduate has a first class rating in one of the applied military types of sport and an outstanding evaluation in physical training. Such a lieutenant undoubtedly will be able to conduct a lesson, demonstrate exercises for his subordinates and, importantly, grasp everything new which life brings and which is required for his work. And our comprehensive exercises, which encompass both front-line experience in training, and the most modern, scientifically based requirements, await young enthusiasts.

No, the cross-bar (naturally, here implying sports as a whole) has not become an unnecessary addition to the missile or aviation complex. It is required as the means of maintaining firm physical tempering, required for combat.

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FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

NATO EXERCISE 'DANGEROUS' TO ITALIAN CIVILIANS

Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Oct 86 p 3

[Article by Correspondent A. Smirnov: "A 'Display' With Missiles"]

[Text] "After a promising beginning, matters are taking shape very poorly for us. I can say with confidence that the 'Orange' forces (ours) will be defeated by the 'Blue' (U. S. 30th Mtzd Bde). A-6 and A-7 fighter-bombers, which will lift off from the deck of the aircraft carrier Kennedy, now located along with 20 other NATO military ships off the shores of Corsica, will bring this victory to the Americans." Reporting by the Rome newspaper TEMPO about the current NATO maneuvers taking place on Italian territory under the name "Display Determination-86" begins with these words.

The fighters taking off from the American aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean Sea represent a threat not only to the "Orange" Italian forces, which have been operating in the ongoing maneuvers. They are dangerous mainly to Italian civilian facilities, cities and populated areas, and civilian aircraft.

There are good reasons for fears. On one day alone, 8 May 85, two air disasters were avoided owing to good luck and the skill of the pilots. At 0834 hours, the commander of an airliner flying from Rome to Cagliari reported that two unknown fighter aircraft had intersected his flight path at a distance of 500 meters. And less than six hours later a new warning report was transmitted to the airport dispatcher's post in Palermo on Sicily. This time it was from the commander of a flight from Pisa to Palermo. He reported that during his landing his flight path was intersected by a heavy anti-submarine warfare fighter-bomber. In a total of six hours two most dangerous situations arose in the Italian skies, which could have led to the death of dozens of people. It is necessary to take into account that the DC-9 passenger liners used by Italian aviation companies fly approximately 20 km in one minute. Thus, there were only literally a few seconds until catastrophe.

One can understand the indignation of the civil airline pilots and the fear which dozens of passengers experience. But it is difficult to explain the almost complete indifference displayed by the Italian military command with respect to these incidents. The first moment after queries by the aviation companies the Ministry of Defense stated that there were no military aircraft

in the indicated zone. One cannot help but recall the legends about various flying carpets and other UFOs -- unidentified flying objects. But, as it turned out, strangers from other planets had nothing to do with this. The two fighters which intersected the flight path of the aircraft over Sardinia belonged to the United States Air Force, and the anti-submarine fighter-bomber, which almost caused the catastrophe over Sicily, took off from the deck of the French aircraft carrier Clemenceau. The Italian Ministry of Defense cannot be formally accused of deliberate deceit. The military aircraft truly were not Italian. But they were NATO aircraft and were taking part in NATO military exercises code named Distant Hammer - 1985.

As the local press emphasizes, it "became very crowded" over the Apennines Peninsula. The territory of the continental part of Italy, as well as the islands, most of all such major islands as Sicily and Sardinia, are literally enmeshed in a network of American and NATO military bases. Only narrow air corridors are left for the pilots of civilian aircraft, but military aircraft constantly intrude into even these. In late April of this year yet another civilian aircraft succeeded in avoiding catastrophe only owing to the skill of its pilots, who abruptly changed course in order to avoid a collision with an "attacking" Tornado fighter. In all such cases the military authorities initiate an investigation, which ends, as a rule, with the conclusion that "there was no danger." This, of course, is in the event that the investigation concludes at all. The press published the conclusions of the commission involved in investigating the explosion of a passenger aircraft in the vicinity of the island of Ustica in 1980. As it now became clear, it was knocked down by a missile during routine NATO exercises then taking place. As a result of this catastrophe, 81 passengers and crew members of the aircraft perished.

Recently the Pentagon, "by mistake" as it was later reported, acknowledged that at an airbase near the city of Rimini, as well as at three other U. S. and NATO military facilities on the Apennines Peninsula, not only are U. S. Air Force fighters in a state of constant combat readiness, but so are the nuclear warheads intended for them.

The role in Europe which Pentagon strategists assign to Italy does not suit its democratic society. "From the peripheral NATO territory which it traditionally has been," stated one of the leaders of a Washington institute for the study of foreign policy, William (Arkin), in an interview with the weekly ESPRESSO, "Italy has turned into the center of the extension of American military might in a zone now considered 'hot' -- the Middle East. Italy has become third among European NATO countries in nuclear might, after Britain and the FRG. There are 550 nuclear warheads deployed on its territory. F-16 aircraft in Rimini, tornados in the small town of (Gedi-Torre) and cruise missiles at (Komizo) can make a nuclear strike a great distance from Italian territory; they are even able to reach the Soviet Union."

This role as an American and NATO nuclear "storage room" is less and less to the liking of the Italians.

After This Issue was Ready for Press:

Rome. Under pressure from the democratic parties, the Italian government decided to raise from the seabed fragments of the DC-9 passenger aircraft which crashed and sank off of the island of Ustica near Sicily in June 1980. As Giuliano Amato, deputy minister of the Italian Council of Ministers Presidium, stated, this operation will be conducted to establish the truth about the disaster, as a result of which all passengers and crew members perished.

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FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

PRAVDA NOTES GREECE'S DISPUTE WITH NATO ON AIR CONTROLLERS

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Oct 86 p 5

[Article by V. Potapov: "A Rebuff to Interference"]

[Text] Maneuvers by NATO naval and air forces in the Aegean Sea, under the code name Display Determination-86, will create a real threat to flights of Greek aircraft of both international and local airlines. The Greek press is full of these alarming reports. For the first time, remarks the newspaper ATHENS NEWS, the NATO military command is reacting with such blatant disdain to the instructions of Greek national civil aviation, which are based on the requirements of ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization).

This problem concerns, in particular, attempts to replace Greek air transport specialists with NATO dispatchers for the time of the exercises.

The Greek government assessed this act by the NATO military command as unacceptable and unlawful, since it violates the treaty on the creation of the North Atlantic Bloc. According to press reports, the country's naval and air forces have been brought to a heightened state of combat readiness, in order to prevent possible violations of Greek airspace and territorial waters by NATO aircraft and ships during maneuvers. Commenting on this fact, Ioannis Haralambopoulos, Greek minister of national defense, stated: "We are obligated to take necessary measures to defend our national sovereignty."

The present incident again reminds us that the Atlantic headquarters do not wish to reconcile themselves to the thought that for five years already Greece has been governed by representatives of democratic forces, who are attempting to conduct an independent foreign policy.

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FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENTS IN WESTERN ARTILLERY SHELLS EXAMINED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 86 p 3

[Article by Col N. Grishin (Retired), candidate of engineering: "Replacing Traditional Powders"]

[Text] Foreign military experts agree that one of the main ways of improving the military characteristics of artillery weapons is through improving all elements of their rounds, including powders, their explosive substances. Consequently, in recent years they have succeeded in increasing the range and accuracy of firing and achieving small variability in the basic characteristics of powders after lengthy storage of charges and rounds. Active efforts in foreign countries to improve the ballistic and physical characteristics of solid powders and propellant charges in a number of directions are presently underway as well.

For example, the foreign press reports information about the British BIS 14 slotted-tubular propellant charge, which is placed in a specially developed, fully combustible case. This charge has been developed to fire from standard 155 mm guns with 39 caliber tube length "Base Bleed" rounds, having optimal aerodynamic form and a base cap with a gas generator.

Tests have shown that use of the BIS 14 charge and the "Base Bleed" round in the FH70 155 mm Howitzer, which is the primary towed artillery piece in the British, Italian and West German armies, increases the maximum firing range to 31 km, as opposed to 24 km when normal charges and rounds are used.

However, such a substantial increase in range, foreign observers note, is not achieved without negative consequences. JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY reported that, despite the fact that the frontal portion of the BIS 14 cartridge case contains substances which form a layer of relatively low temperature gases when fired, which protect the bore from rapid scoring, tube life of contemporary guns when using this charge is equal to 2,500 rounds fired. And this is one half to one third the life achieved when using ordinary charges. The high durability of the cases, foreign specialists note, enable them to be used in guns with semi-automatic loading, and thereby improve their rate of fire. Scientific research work being conducted abroad to design so-called modular propellant charges is also aimed at achieving this goal -- improving

the rate of fire. It is believed that this will make it possible to replace the existing highly complex traditional system of bag charges, which cannot be used in automated loading systems.

What are modular charges? In terms of design they will have two-four separate, easily joined, fully combustible, durable shell casings with suspended powder bags. Their combination enables propellant charges of different sizes to be obtained, which makes it possible to fire across a broad spectrum of ranges.

One of the new directions in research is the creation of solid powders possessing great resistance to the effect of various external factors. This concerns ignition when they are struck by rounds from shell fragments. Analysis of combat losses of armored equipment in wars and military conflicts shows that approximately half of the tanks and self-propelled guns knocked out were lost permanently, due to the fact that when the combat vehicle was struck frequently the propellant charges were ignited, leading to the explosion of ammunition contained therein, death of the crew and complete destruction of the tank or self-propelled gun.

Summarizing the results of many years of theoretical and experimental research carried out by U. S. Army laboratories, the journal ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION reports the development of artillery powders based on brisant explosives. They consist of a mixture of small grains of explosives, evenly distributed in an inert polymer pack. Not inferior to existing explosives in ballistic characteristics and chemical and thermal stability, these powders, the foreign press notes, have substantially less sensitivity to impact, heat and being fired through.

Tests showed that when metal artillery casings filled with ordinary MZO powder were pierced by shell fragments the powder ignited and the casing exploded, but powder based on brisant explosives did not catch fire, thereby substantially reducing the danger of fire in the vehicle.

In the opinion of foreign specialists, such powders can be used both in self-propelled artillery, and on ships with artillery weapons.

Along with improving solid powders, a great deal of attention is being paid abroad to the development of liquid propellant substances (ZhMV -- zhidkikh metatelnikh veshchestv). Interest in this type of explosive results from the fact that when they are used it is possible to attain a more even change in gas pressure in the bore and increase range without increasing the maximum value of this parameter.

Other advantages cited for liquid propellant substances over classical solid powders include the possibility of increasing the ammunition load of tanks and self-propelled artillery. Moreover, it is thought that this type of explosives provides a two or three-fold increase in the practical rate of fire of the gun and makes it possible to change the range, not only by increasing or decreasing the angle of elevation of the tube, but also by regulating the dosage of the combustible when firing the propellant substance.

However, foreign specialists note that it will be necessary to solve many technical problems to realize the enumerated advantages. Most important is to provide reliable control over the process of burning the liquid propellant substance in the gun. This is necessary to achieve strict reproducibility of ballistic characteristics, without which it is impossible to achieve accurate and grouped fire.

According to foreign experts, General Electric obtained interesting results in studying problems associated with the development of guns which use liquid propellant. It designed a number of gun test units of from 25 to 105 millimeters, from which several thousand rounds were fired to study the combustion process of different liquid propellants, choose the most optimal and seek ways of precise dispensing.

This research interested the U. S. military, which gave the firm a contract to develop over a five year period a demonstration model of a 155 mm self-propelled gun. A mock-up was demonstrated at one of the exhibitions. The gun has ammunition stowage for 126 rounds, which is 3-4 times greater than the transportable units of fire of present 155 mm self-propelled howitzers. To improve safety, canisters with the single-component liquid propellant substance are located in the lower part of the vehicle. In the future it is planned to develop a 127 mm naval gun employing this type of explosive.

Foreign experts believe that liquid explosives may find wide use, not only in artillery, but also in engineer units. For example, the Western press notes, they may be used to create anti-tank ditches. The essence of the idea is to lay a plastic pipe in a narrow trench on a tank-vulnerable axis, which is filled with liquid explosive and exploded at the required moment. Thus, an obstacle is created in the path of movement of enemy tanks.

According to ARMY TIMES, experimental models of systems in which this method is implemented have been developed in the FRG and the U. S. In the West German system a liquid explosive based on nitromethane is used. Its low viscosity (half that of water) makes it possible when necessary to pump the explosive into and out of the tube repeatedly. However, other opinions also exist. American engineers, for example, consider the low viscosity of nitromethane to be a disadvantage, since it makes it more difficult to achieve airtight tube joints and requires complicated packing. Moreover, they emphasize, nitromethane is flammable. Therefore, other "fillers" are also being sought.

Besides creating anti-tank ditches, liquid explosives are expected to be used to destroy highway and railway sectors, tunnels, bridges, buildings, and to make passages in mine fields (in mine-clearing bangalore torpedoes).

The foreign press reports the results of tests of such systems. When a 300 meter long, 10 centimeter diameter pipe, placed in the ground a depth of 1.5-2.1 meters, and filled with 3.630 - 4.080 kilograms of liquid explosives is exploded, a deep (more than 3 meter), wide (up to 12 meter) triangular cross-section ditch is formed, which the U. S. M60 series tanks are unable to negotiate independently.

According to assessments by foreign specialists, providing the troops with these systems will make it possible to create the necessary density of forces and weapons on the required axis, covering weakened axes by one or several rows of buried pipes with liquid explosives.

AFGHANISTAN

SHEFTUNOV ON RETURN OF SOVIET REGIMENTS FROM DRA

NC181328 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Igor Sheftunov Commentary]

[Excerpts] Some units from the limited Soviet contingent in Afghanistan began to return on Wednesday. A spectacular ceremony was held in Shindand in Herat Province to bid farewell to the first of six regiments that are to come back to the Soviet Union this month.

The world press viewed this Soviet step, which was taken with the Afghan Government's approval, as proof of our country's desire to help normalize the situation around Afghanistan. In contrast, the U.S. administration was openly disturbed by the political impact of the USSR's decision to bring some of its soldiers back from Afghanistan. U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger hastened to spread lies and fabrications, and made futile attempts to downplay the significance of this constructive Soviet action. Regrettably, it should be said that baseless fabrications regarding Soviet policy in Afghanistan were repeated by spokesman for (?Afghanistan's neighbors). The Iranian Government spokesman, for instance, recently alleged that the U.S. Government benefited from the arrival of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. In fact, just the opposite is true. The Soviet soldiers who went to the DRA at the request of that country's government helped Afghanistan frustrate the U.S. administration's aggressive objectives there.

While thanking Soviet troops for their assistance to the Afghan people, Afghan leader Najib stressed that at that time, it was a question of the revolution's life or death, and was a matter of the people's respect and honor and of Afghan sovereignty and territorial integrity. You offered hands of brotherly friendship, and helped us overcome our difficulties.

Soviet troops did their internationalist duty in 1979 when they went to the aid of the Afghan people, who faced an undeclared war begun by the U.S. imperialists. As a result, the Afghan people resisted and defended their revolution. The Afghan nation is constantly moving toward social and economic independence. The Afghan Armed Forces are successfully crushing the counter-revolutionaries. In the past 4 months alone, 3,000 armed enemies of Afghanistan laid down their weapons and gave themselves up to government troops. Talks are now being held with 92 armed enemy bands on the subject of their surrender.

The gradual stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan has made it possible to bring back part of the limited Soviet contingent. With this act, the USSR has proved its wish for a rapid settlement of matters around Afghanistan. Once the organizers of armed foreign intervention in Afghanistan's affairs halt their interference, all the Soviet forces will be able to return to their homeland. However, if armed foreign intervention continues, as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has pointed out, the USSR will not abandon its neighbor. Our internationalist solidarity with the Afghan people, which is in the interests of Soviet security, completely excludes any action but this.

/8918

CSO: 4640/18

COMMENTARY ON TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN, CAMBODIA

OW200313 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 18 Oct 86

[Volskiy Commentary]

[Excerpts] In the world today, no statesmen or press openly opposes mediation of regional conflicts, including those in and around Afghanistan and Cambodia. Imperialist politicians also talk about resolving regional conflicts, but their true intention is obvious if the stand of the United States and its partners toward the so-called Afghan and Cambodian issues is objectively analyzed. They are not for mediation, but for aggravating conflict situations. Let us review the causes for the rise and aggravation of conflict situations.

[Words indistinct] U.S. aggression against Vietnam in the early 1970's also directly affected Cambodia. Second, U.S. intervention in Cambodia began immediately after the downfall of the sanguinary Pol Pot Regime. The United States dispatched a secret group to the Thai-Cambodian border to provide the remnant forces of the Pol Pot bandit regime with all types of equipment. This kind of protection has continued to the present day. In addition to protecting the Pol Pot elements, Washington also protects the so-called tripartite coalition government.

The causes for the emergence of the conflict situation around Afghanistan are generally similar. The undeclared war against Afghanistan launched by imperialism and its allies began after the April 1978 revolution in Afghanistan. In an attempt to suppress this anti-imperialist people's revolution, and put a puppet in power, Washington and its partners have turned to support the counter-revolutionaries who have fled Afghanistan. They have organized these counter-revolutionaries and some hoodwinked Afghans into bandit gangs and dispatched them into Afghanistan. These bandits have committed all sorts of crimes in Afghanistan. This is known to all.

Afghanistan and Cambodia, like other countries, have the right to ask their friends for help in resisting aggression. Here, it is appropriate to recall China's experience. During the war of resistance against Japan, China relied on the support of the antifascist alliance. After the war, the support of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries also played an important role in helping the Chinese people repulse imperialist aggressive attempts. Thus the Chinese people defended the antifeudal, anti-imperialist revolutionary ideal. In fact, this revolution is in many ways similar to the revolutions which

occurred later in Cambodia and Afghanistan. However, the United States and some other countries have made suspension of support for the Afghan and Cambodian revolutions by socialist countries a major precondition for mediating the situation around them. This is contradictory to historical experience and also to common sense.

It can be seen that demanding the immediate total withdrawal of the limited number of Soviet troops in Afghanistan and the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops in Cambodia, without ending acts of aggression against these two countries, is like turning things upside down. Only those with provocations in mind will insist on a stand which will aggravate the tension in Asia as a whole, including that on the Chinese borders. China can really benefit from the elimination of the conflict situations around Afghanistan and Cambodia, but this goal can be achieved only after the imperialists stop their counterrevolutionary and aggressive intervention in the revolutionary causes of Afghanistan and Cambodia. Once the imperialists stop their intervention, these two countries will no longer need the help of their friends.

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AFGHANISTAN

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BRIEFS

TASS CRITICIZES RENMIN RIBAO--A TASS observer has called an article by Beijing's RENMIN RIBAO on the withdrawal of six Soviet regiments from Afghanistan preposterous. In the article the Beijing newspaper says that this action by the Soviet Union is of no real significance because it is a maneuver designed to dupe the public. In a commentary the TASS observer pointed out that RENMIN RIBAO has made use of anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan statements coming from the United States to distort the Soviet Union's constructive measures. The TASS observer also charged that Beijing's news media are encouraging those who are obstructing the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan.
[Text] [Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 4 Nov 86 OW] /8918

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